FRIDAY
January 19, 2024

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/whatsapp
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

Vol. 55 • No. 16

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

BILKIS CASE IN SC

Convicts seek more time to surrender

NEWS » PAGE 14

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

GM crops will make edible oil cheaper, says govt.

NEWS » PAGE 16

EXCISE POLICY CASE

Kejriwal skips fourth summons from ED

NEWS » PAGE 15

PARLEY

AI models and copyrighted material

NYT's suit sparks debate on fair use

OPINION » PAGE 13

AGONISING WAIT

India loses, to take on Japan for Paris berth

SPORT » PAGE 19

State puts internal quota issue in Centre's court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Lobbing the contentious issue of international reservation into the Centre's court, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to ask the Union government to amend the Constitution appropriately to allow States to slice up the reservation pie among the Scheduled Castes. Implementing internal reservation among the Dalits was a poll promise made by the ruling Congress ahead of the Assembly elections.

Speaking after the Cabinet meeting on Thursday, Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa argued that little could be done by the States unless Article 341 is amended.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 8

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

9 killed as Pakistan launches retaliatory air strikes in Iran

Islamabad says action taken after credible intelligence of impending large-scale terrorist activities; risk of escalation remains as Iran's military begins a planned air defence drill from Chabahar port

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Air Force launched retaliatory air strikes early on Thursday in Iran against alleged militant hideouts, killing at least nine people and further raising tensions between the neighbours.

Thursday's attack followed one by Iran inside Pakistan on Tuesday. Both appeared to target Baloch militant groups with similar separatist goals on either side of the Iran-Pakistan border. The countries accuse each other of providing safe haven to the groups in their respective territories.

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry described its attack on Thursday as "a series of highly coordinated and specifically targeted precision military strikes".

Hitting back: People gathering near rubble in the aftermath of Pakistan's air strike on an Iranian village on Thursday. REUTERS

"This morning's action was taken in light of credible intelligence of impending large-scale terrorist activities," it said in a statement. "This action is a manifestation of Pakistan's unflinching resolve to protect and defend its national security against all threats," it added.

A Deputy Governor of Iran's Sistan and Balochestan province, Ali Reza Marhamati, gave the casualty figures from Thursday's strike, saying the dead included three women, four children and two men near the town of Saravan along the border. He said the dead were not Iranian citizens.

Iran later summoned Pakistan's charge d'affaires in the country. Pakistan already had withdrawn its Ambassador over Tuesday's attack.

The risk of escalation remained Thursday as Iran's military begins a planned annual air defence drill from its port of Chabahar near Pakistan all across the south of the country to Iraq.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Navy helps drone-hit vessel in Gulf of Aden

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The Navy's destroyer *INS Visakhapatnam* responded to a distress call by Marshall Islands-flagged merchant vessel *MV Genco Picardy,* following a drone attack in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday night.

This comes even as the U.S.-led coalition continued strikes on Houthi military targets in Yemen to "degrade" their capabilities, in the wake of Houthi drone attacks on ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden. "*INS Visakhapatnam* intercepted the vessel on January 18 to provide assistance. *MV Genco Picardy* with 22 crew, nine Indians, reported nil casualties and fire (is) under control," the Navy said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14
U.S. HITS TARGETS IN YEMEN
» PAGE 17

12 school students, 2 teachers killed in Gujarat boat capsize

Fire Service personnel conducting a rescue operation after a boat capsized in a lake in Vadodara on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Mahesh Langa
AHMEDABAD

A school picnic turned into a tragedy on Thursday as 14 people – 12 children and two teachers – died after a boat carrying over 20 children and many adults capsized in the Harni lake in Vadodara.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel, along with top officials, rushed to the spot, where the rescue team continued to comb the lake late into the night, searching for missing persons. He directed the Collector of Vadodara to hold an inquiry and submit a report within 10 days.

It was not clear whether the students and teachers from a private school were wearing life jackets, and whether the boat had the capacity to carry almost 30 people.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Giving time daily for the things you love
is your life's SIP
SIP for your life
Scan to know more or contact your MFD / RIA
Advantages of SIP
Freedom from timing the market
Flexibility to choose investment amount
HDFC
MUTUAL FUND
BHAROSA APNO KA
An Investor Education and Awareness Initiative
SIP - Systematic Investment Plan. Visit https://www.hdfcfund.com/information/key-know-how to know more about the process to complete a one-time Know Your Customer (KYC) requirement to invest in Mutual Funds. Investors should only deal with registered Mutual Funds, details of which can be verified on the SEBI website (www.sebi.gov.in/intermediaries.html). For any queries, complaints & grievance redressal, investors may reach out to the AMCs and / or Investor Relations Officers. Additionally, investors may also lodge complaints directly with the AMCs, if they are unsatisfied with the resolutions given by AMCs they may raise complaint through the SCORES portal on https://scores.gov.in. SCORES portal facilitates investors to lodge complaint online with SEBI and subsequently view its status. In case the investor is not satisfied with the resolution of the complaints raised directly with the AMCs or through the SCORES portal, they may file any complaint on the Smart ODR on https://smartodr.in/login.
Mutual Fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.
A BG-BGE

‘Butcher from Bilbao’ calls Maradona the greatest

Goikoetxea is known for his skirmishes with the Argentine; he feels that football is a contact sport but it is different now and the teams want to play out from the back and there is hardly any contact; the sport was harder, faster and had more turnovers during his days, according to him

Abhishek Saini
BILBAO

Try eliciting a detailed response on the topic, and Andoni Goikoetxea, with his arms wide open, is prompt in clearing the air - “For me, [Diego] Maradona is the greatest player.” The embracing ear-to-ear grin that accompanies gives no inkling that this is the ‘Butcher from Bilbao’.

“I could never see Pele or [Alfredo] Di Stefano. Even [Johan] Cryuff was there. But Maradona was special. He was different,” Goikoetxea says.

The admiration for the Argentine grew on him during the Napoli years between 1984 and 1991. The two league titles in Naples and the 1986 World Cup for Argentina prompted a change of heart before Goikoetxea finally decided to bury the hatchet in 1992.

“When he came back to Bilbao [to play for Sevilla], I sat with him over drinks and talked about his life and family. So, it all ended very well,” he says.

The amicable conclusion must have seemed inconceivable, for both Maradona and Goikoetxea, after their encounter in 1983 had marked an ill-tempered and tumultuous chapter between Barcelona and Athletic Bilbao.

“It was always said that football is a contact sport. It is different now. The teams want to play out from the back and there is hardly any contact. Back in the day, it was harder, faster, and had more turnovers,” Goikoetxea says.

Goikoetxea’s justification for his unrelenting, no-holds-barred football philosophy is fair given it helped him forge a central place in Javier Clemente’s Athletic team that had claimed the LaLiga titles in 1983 and 1984, including a domestic double in the second year.

It was business as usual for Athletic Club and Goikoetxea on a trip to Barcelona in September 1983. Athletic was the reigning Spanish champion and, early in its title defence, three points at Camp Nou promised to be rich spoils. However, with Athletic trailing 0-2 in the second half, Goikoetxea, in an attempt to close down Maradona and retrieve the ball near the centre circle, lunged into the Argentine.

“I just felt the impact, heard the sound - like a piece of wood cracking - and realised immediately what had happened," Maradona wrote in his autobiography. The talismanic forward was stretchered off and would not play another game that year. Goikoetxea was reprimanded with only a yellow card but was subsequently banned for 18 games before it was chopped down to six.

“How do I see what had happened? Injuring the best player of the time was tough. It was a hard time for me, my family, and the club,” Goikoetxea says. The term ‘Butcher from Bilbao’ was the aftermath of this tackle and has stuck with the centre-back since.

GETTY IMAGES

Reports claimed that Goikoetxea had saved the boots he wore in the game and, as a prized possession, put them on display in his living room - a gesture fitting for a proverbial butcher. But the story is far from the truth, Goikoetxea explains.

“After my suspension [was announced], the next match was the European Cup second leg against Lech Poznan at the San Mames. I scored the first goal. After we won, my teammates lifted me on their shoulders. The entire stadium was chanting my name.

“It was an emotional moment for me. I have only played against Maradona twice, and injuring him felt bad. The crowd realised I was going through a tough time and applauded me. So, as a souvenir from that match, I decided to keep the boots. Not because I injured him. The nuance is important,” Goikoetxea says.

Maradona had his retribution in the reverse fixture at the San Mames when his brace handed a 2-1 victory to Barcelona.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

But the bitterness continued to spill over. In the Copa del Rey final in May 1984, after Barcelona conceded the game 1-0 to the Basque club, Maradona instigated a mass brawl between the players and backroom staff. Goikoetxea was involved too. Both players were sanctioned and faced lengthy bans. The Argentine was transferred to Napoli after the incident.

Years later, with the benefit of hindsight, Goikoetxea feels the two games were merely blips in Maradona’s storied career. “I injured him in 1983. Thankfully, he was back and won the titles in Italy and won the World Cup three years later. So, it seems that we fixed his left ankle a little bit so that later he would be a champion,” Goikoetxea says with a chuckle.

Goikoetxea’s influence on the illustrious Athletic side earned him a place in the national team. Others from Clemente’s side accompanied him in La Furia Roja during the 1986 World Cup. Unfettered by the public perception, Goikoetxea persisted with his hardline football. “I will stick with the football of the past,” he still says.

THE GIST

- Goikoetxea remembers burying the hatchet with Maradona after their run-ins on the field
- He reveals that he retained the boots from the match against the Argentine as a souvenir and not because he injured the opponent
- The 67-year-old says he will stick with the football of the past

USA does more than just Pass(more), returns to Olympics after eight years

Nihit Sachdeva
RANCHI

With nine minutes left on the clock and the score 1-1, USA believed it had a genuine chance in the Pan American Games final in Santiago last year.

With a world-class goalkeeper in Kelsey Bing, the Americans backed themselves to beat seven-time champion Argentina once the gold medal and the automatic qualification spot for Paris Olympics would have been decided via a penalty shootout.

Falling at the final hurdle

However, a diving Eugenia Trinchinetti found the winning goal for Las Leonas (the lionesses) with a deflection that beat Bing. USA had to settle for silver.

Two months later, USA has topped its group - featuring India, New Zealand and Italy - at the FIH Hockey Olympic Qualifiers here without conceding a single goal.

“I wouldn't have believed you, especially not having conceded a goal,” said US head coach David Passmore when asked if he expected his team to be in this position before the tournament.

Since finishing fifth at Rio Olympics in 2016, USA’s women’s hockey team had been struggling for stability in terms of coaches and also slipped down in the FIH Rankings.

PTI

Irishman Passmore took the job in August 2022 and found that the national group barely spent time together.

“When I arrived 15 months ago, we just had nine athletes (in the central group) - six outfield players, three goalkeepers. Last year in May, we got 24 together. We've had the group together since then. We played in the Pro League last year. Since August, we've been preparing for the Pan Ams and then this tournament as a group of 24,” he said.

Passmore has previously worked as an assistant coach for Great Britain at the 2000 Sydney Olympics. He was heavily involved in the junior and senior setups back home with the Irish women’s team’s silver medal at World Cup 2022 being the highlight.

His twin daughters, aged 27, play hockey in Australia and Ireland while his twin sons, aged 22, are video analysts in the sport.

Before replacing Greg Drake as the US head coach, Passmore had been a lecturer in ‘Coaching Science and Education’ at Dublin City University since 2012.

As part of his new job, Passmore first tried to understand the field hockey culture in the US.

No club hockey

“There's no club hockey whatsoever in the US. When you finish college at 21-22, there's no club to go and play for. You either play for the national team or you are finished. I couldn't believe it when I first arrived, having come from Europe where there's obviously a thriving club culture,” said the 53-year-old.

“it's something that they miss out on and it's a special culture. When they're younger, the real drive is to get a university scholarship, so you get free education.

“The colleges have three full time coaches, strength and conditioning, nutrition, psychology support and amazing facilities but it doesn't really prepare them for international hockey because they almost play too many games in a short period of time. The top players are spread out, so that's why we have to have this centralised program,” he added.

Back in the US, the central group stays in one location and since the players are not professionals, they train in the morning and leave for work in the afternoon.

In the ongoing Olympic Qualifiers, USA has been particularly impressive with its Penalty Corner defense, the defending in one-on-one situations, its pressing as well as the pace upfront with young forwards such as Ashley Sessa, Abigail Tamer and Madeleine Zimmer. One of the minds behind this defensive solidity and tactical astuteness is assistant coach Javier Telechea.

Telechea is an Argentine and also has coaching experience in the sport that his home nation loves the most - football.

“In Argentina, we are born with a soccer ball in our hands,” said the 34-year-old, who was the assistant coach of Club Atletico Independiente when it won Copa Sudamericana in 2017.

Making the transition

“When I was coaching in soccer, I was assistant to a head coach who was actually a hockey coach. He made that transition. Together, we planned some tactics similar to hockey, keeping the offside in mind,” he adds.

On Thursday, two months after the heartbreaking loss in the Pan American Games final, USA overcame Japan’s challenge in the semifinal and ensured its return to the Summer Games after eight years.

Sale of saffron flags, religious books, models of Ram temple up in city

Elaborate arrangements have been made at some residential complexes for bhajans and rituals on the day of the inauguration of the temple in Ayodhya

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A large rangoli designed on the theme of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, created by artist Akshay, at a mall in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

Ahead of the inauguration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, Bengaluru is seeing increased sales of saffron flags, Ramayana books, and models of the Ram Mandir, besides elaborate arrangements for bhajans and rituals at some residential complexes on January 22.

"There is a great demand for saffron flags which have writings like 'Jai Sri Ram' and 'Jai Hanuman' in the last few days. Many are also purchasing saffron shawls. Additionally, idols of Rama, Lakshmana, and Seeta are also sought after," said a staff member from Bhakti Shringar store at Shantinagar. Similar patterns have also been observed in other areas of the city. "The 'Jai Sri Ram' flags are going off the shelves and so have books of Rama Raksha Stotra," said the manager at Satish Stores in Gandhi Bazaar.

Literature on Rama

Booksellers have also noticed that there is a sudden surge in demand for literature around Lord Rama with many bookstores also planning to help people with the distribution of such books in the neighbouring areas. "Rama Raksha Stotra and Rama Kathe, which have around three variations, are in sudden demand in the last few days. We had hardly seen customers coming to buy those books earlier," said a staff at Pooja Pustaka Bhandara on Avenue Road.

Apart from these articles, models of the Ayodhya temple are also being bought by many, even from online stores. "I checked at a few stores near my house and could not find a model of the temple. So, I placed an order online which will arrive just in time for the inauguration," said Parimala R., a resident of Sahakarnagar.

Ayodhya kits

While the *akshathe* distribution campaign has been taken up by many devotees in the city, in some apartment complexes, "Ayodhya kits" which contain items such as oil for the lamp, a photo of Lord Rama, and a brochure on Ayodhya's history and developments are also being distributed. On January 22, several complexes have arranged events such as a special screening of the inauguration, continuous chanting of Rama Raksha Stotram, Hanuman Chalisa, devotional songs, and food drives.

This kind of zeal has left some uncomfortable. "There is immense peer pressure and many organisers are insisting that we attend such events. Some people may be against this politically. Some others may be religious, but may not like such celebrations. This kind of pressure is not good," a resident of an apartment complex who did not wish to be named said.

Demand for holiday

Lokesh Talikatte of the Registered Unaided Private Schools Management Association has requested the State government to take a stand on declaring a holiday for schools on January 22 as many parents have put forward the demand.

On the other hand, the Associated Management of Primary and Secondary Schools in Karnataka has issued an advisory to all its members to live stream the temple's inauguration instead of declaring a holiday.

However, there has been opposition to this move. "Under the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, the academic and administrative rights lie with the State. The associations do not have any authority to issue such advisories and it would be a gross violation of laws to do it. Schools are a site of secularism and will have children of various faiths," said development educationist V.P. Niranjanaradhya.

Tribute to an icon

The Republic Day Flower Show on the theme Vishwa Guru Basavannna and Vachana Sahitya began at Lalbagh in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN (PHOTO FEATURE ON E-PAPER PAGE 9)

Man from LGBTQ+ community, who went on a date, assaulted, tortured and robbed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 34-year-old private firm employee from the LGBTQ+ community was reportedly abducted, tortured, and robbed by his online friend at Madiwala on January 10. The victim was tortured, assaulted, and humiliated before he was robbed of his valuables at an apartment. Adding to his trauma the police registered a case two days later, booking the accused only for assault and criminal intimidation, diluting the severity of the offence, a friend of the victim posted on social media on Thursday.

According to the FIR, the victim met the accused on a social networking app for the LGBTQ+ community and decided to meet up in person. After a formal chat, the victim went to meet him at Tavarekere on January 10. The accused took the victim to his flat on Venkateshwara College Road where three more people were already there.

The trio allegedly assaulted him by hand and belt, threatened him with dire consequences and demanded money. The victim, who managed to get away from there, was later treated at a private hospital on Hosur Road before he approached the police. Based on the complaint, the police registered an FIR against the unidentified accused charging them under section 324 (Voluntarily causing hurt by dangerous weapons), section 323 (voluntary causing hurt), and section 504 (abusive, insulting language intentionally) of the IPC.

Charge against police

The victim's friend posted about the incident on social media, bringing it to the notice of higher officials. "The police haven't invoked sections congruent with the nature of the offence. Despite the victim sharing the ID of the accused on the app, the trail of UPI transactions through which they extorted money from him, the police are yet to arrest any of the accused even after a week," the friend posted online.

According to the complaint, the victim, who lives in the city, is from a neighbouring State. On January 10, he was assaulted with a weapon, stripped nude, and the accused allegedly urinated on him. As the victim sustained injuries and was bleeding, the accused allegedly forced him to clean his blood from the floor.

They tortured him, forced him to share his passwords and extorted ₹52,000 through ATM withdrawals and UPI payments. The accused also took away his belongings, together worth ₹75,000. The victim said when he met the Madiwala police, they filed an FIR for causing hurt by weapons and criminal intimidation. The victim had his four ribs fractured and was bleeding from the head due to the injury caused.

C.K. Baba, DCP (Southeast), said the investigation into the case was on and that the accused would be apprehended soon.

I-T sleuths inspect three sub-registrar offices

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Income Tax sleuths visited three sub-registrar offices in the city on Thursday and checked for tax-related documents the sub-registrars have to collect for all property transactions above ₹30 lakh.

Sub-registrars have to collect Tax Deducted at Source certificate and PAN card in connection with all property transactions above the value of ₹30 lakh. Sleuths inspected records and issued notices to submit these records for verification.

'To check for compliance'

Sources said this was a routine exercise and a random inspection to check for compliance with legal tax-related documents to be collected during property registration.

Gang of four robs student

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A gang of four men robbed a BTech student and made away with his wristwatch and also forced him to pay ₹1,000 online, near Domlur flyover on Monday. The victim, Aditya Abhiraj, 27, a resident of Koramangala, was returning home on his motorcycle after visiting his friend at Marathahalli. When he reached Domlur flyover around 11.30 p.m., the accused intercepted him in a car. One of them pulled out an iron rod, grabbed the victim by his collar and demanded that he hand over money. When Aditya said he did not have any cash on him, the accused snatched his wristwatch and forced him to pay one of them ₹1,000 online, the police said.

Gunrunner and his associate arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Organised Crime Wing of the Central Crime Branch police on Wednesday arrested a gunrunner and his associate for allegedly supplying country-made pistols to gangsters operating out of Bengaluru.

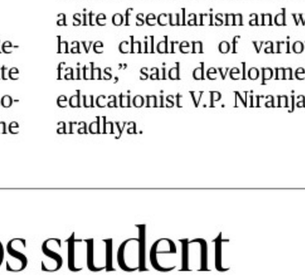
The accused was caught near Ullal Upanagar lake while he was about to hand over the consignment of two country-made pistols and nine rounds from them. According to the police, one of the accused is a native of Maharashtra and a habitual offender involved in similar cases earlier in Maharashtra and Karnataka, including in Bengaluru.

After spending a jail term of one year, the accused was released on bail. He then continued to source weapons from his contacts in northern parts of India and sell them to gangsters and rowdy elements here, a police officer said.

தமிழ்நாடு தொழில் வளர்ச்சி நிறுவனம்
TamilNadu Industrial Development Corporation Ltd
(A Government of Tamil Nadu Enterprise)
கலைஞர் 100 1924 - 2023

BE PART OF FINTECH ECOSYSTEM
E-TENDER CUM E-AUCTION OF DEVELOPED VACANT PLOTS IN NANDAMBAKKAM, CHENNAI

On behalf of Government of Tamil Nadu, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation Limited (TIDCO) has planned Fintech City across 110 acre at Nandambakkam, Chennai and inviting interested bidders for Developed Plots - S15 and S16 measuring 1.5 acre (~0.6 Ha) each in first phase.



TENDER SCHEDULE

Tender Documents download by Bidders Open till 06.02.2024 up to 3.00 PM
Last Date & Time of Submission of Bids 06.02.2024 up to 3.00 PM
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting 19.01.2024 at 03.00 PM

SALIENT FEATURES

Specific Land Use for Fintech Development	Amidst Central Park, Residential, Hospitality & Healthcare	Elevated flyover bridge linking western suburban residential areas
Clear Title with 99 years lease	Seamless connectivity to Guindy and CBD	Adjacent to Phase 2 Metro station and Chennai Trade Centre
Higher FSI as per TOD Policy	Ideal for Corporate Offices, Financial Institutions, Developers, Investors	Masterplanned Integrated Township

TAMIL NADU INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
19-A, Rukmini Lakshmipathy Road,
Egmore, Chennai 600 008 Tamil Nadu
Phone: +91 44 2855 4029
Email: cmd@tidco.com | bhuvaneswari@tidco.com

KNIGHT FRANK (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED
Phone: +91 97911 29966
Email: anand.mk@in.knightfrank.com

https://tidco.com
Exclusively marketed by: Knight Frank

Disclaimer: The statements, information and opinions expressed or provided are intended only as a guide to some of the important considerations that relate to this opportunity. Tender related updates would be available at the website https://tidco.com. Condition of Tender Document, Letter of award and Lease Deed would prevail on the Vacant Plot offering in Fintech City, Chennai RERA NUMBER: TN/29/Agent/0069/2017

DIPR/ 284 /TENDER/2024

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

'ShaktEVah 2.0' 5-days workshop organised by Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru

The Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and Mechanical Engineering, NMIT organized a 5 days Workshop on Electric Vehicles, 'ShaktEVah 2.0' . Chief Guest Dr. H.C. Nagaraj, Principal, NMIT while delivering the valedictory speech opined 'Electric Vehicles appear to have many environmental and societal benefits compared to internal combustion engine vehicle. This results in slowing climate change. The major aspect is India has been on the rise with sales of EVs growing by 82% in the end of previous year'. Further he added that the workshops main focus was on improving battery technology to continue to decrease the cost of EVs. Earlier, the program was inaugurated by Dr. Gopinath Selvaraj, Senior Technical Manager, Tata Elxsi and Dr. S. Dasappa, Professor, IISc Bangalore. The speakers for the workshop were from reputed industries and institutes. There were around 140 participants including external and internal faculty and students Various 2 wheelers and 3 wheelers companies participated in the event. Dr. V. Sridhar, Dean Academics; Dr. Premila Manohar, Head, Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering, NMIT; Dr. Kapilan, Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering; Professors Dr. Vasudha Hegde, Dr. Samanvitha were present on the occasion.

Brainiacs' - Intelligence Unlocked : Science Exhibition Cum Cultural Programme Report at Embassy Public School

In memory of Mr. Aneesh Govind, an IIT topper, the Saptagiri Educational Trust had organized a Science Exhibition-cum-Cultural fest. "Brainiacs'-Intelligence Unlocked" at Embassy Public School exhibition witnessed more than 2000 students, teachers and educators from across the city.The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Prof. Sambasiva Rao (Ex. Dy. Director in Digital & Communication Area at ISRO Satellite Centre as Chief Guest, The MD Mrs. Savitha, The Managing Trustee Abhishek, The Chief Patrons Mr. Narayan & Mr. Mahesh , The Manager & Administrator Mr. Shankar V. & The Principal Mrs. Rahel Sachin Khandagale. The science exhibition showcased an array of fascinating projects, ranging from cutting-edge technological innovations to environmental sustainability solutions. Students' enthusiasm and dedication were evident. The cultural segment featured captivating performances, including dance, music, and drama, providing a perfect blend of entertainment and cultural enrichment. Overall, the program was a splendid amalgamation of science and culture, leaving attendees with a sense of awe and inspiration.

Pongal / Sankranthi Celebration at RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital

RajaRajeswari Medical College and Hospital celebrated Pongal with lots of enthusiasm and joy. The Pongal was prepared in a traditional manner on the wood burning stove with a pot and cultural programs were given by the students. Pot breaking completion was held for the students and the staffs and everyone participated with great fanfare. The sweet and kara pongal with Ellu bella was distributed to all. The executive Director Dr. S. Vijayanand, Principal Dr. Naveen S also offered the pooja to the Go Matha and took a bullock cart ride.

Three - day National Workshop on 'National Education Policy-2020 and Indian Languages' at Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous(KJC)

Recently the Department of Hindi Studies, KJC Autonomous, in collaboration with the Central Hindi Directorate and Ministry of Education, New Delhi organised a three-day National Workshop on the 'National Education Policy-2020 and Indian Languages', the three day national workshop explored the intricacies of the National Education Policy and its impact on Indian languages. Welcoming the gathering, Dr Sreedhara P.D, Head, Hindi Department, KJC, emphasized on the historic significance of hosting such an event in South India, highlighting the institution's honour and commitment in promoting language learning. Addressing the gathering, Rev Father Dr Augustine George, Principal, KJC, expressed gratitude and unwavering support towards the conference. Chief Guest, Dr Anita Dagore, Deputy Director, and Editor at the Central Hindi Directorate, New Delhi, delivered an insightful address, shedding light on the importance of the National Education Policy-2020 in India and its implications on Indian languages. Notable personalities in the field of language education and specifically Hindi studies discussed various aspects of the National Education Policy-2020 and Indian Languages. The participants expressed optimism of the workshop achieveing its goals of fostering the importance of language learning and promoting linguistic diversity across India.

The importance of periodic testing for human pappilomavirus

Cervical cancer, which develops in a woman's cervix, is the second-most common cancer among women in India. It is caused by persistent human papillomavirus infections. Almost all sexually active people are infected by HPV at some point in their lives, but usually without symptoms, the World Health Organisation states

Zubeda Hamid

The New Year brings a whole host of resolutions. If wellness and self-care were on your list, this is the right time to equip yourself with knowledge about cervical cancer: January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

The facts first

Cervical cancer, which develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina) is the second-most common cancer among women in India. It is caused by persistent infection by the human papillomavirus (HPV). Almost all sexually active people are infected by HPV at some point in their lives, but usually without symptoms, the World Health Organisation (WHO) states. In most people, the immune system clears up the virus. In some cases, certain high-risk strains of the virus persist in the body and could lead to cancer. India accounts for nearly a quarter of all cervical cancer deaths in the world. It is estimated that every year around 1.25 lakh women are diagnosed with cervical cancer, and nearly 75,000 of them die.

In 2022, the WHO adopted a strategy aimed at eliminating cervical cancer as a public health problem, worldwide. The strategy had three pillars - 90% of girls fully vaccinated by 2030 with the HPV vaccine, this to be done by age 15; 70% of women screened with a high-performance test between 35 and 45 for early treatment of pre-cancerous lesions, and 90% of women identified with cervical disease, to receive treatment.

Though India is unlikely to meet the 2030 goals, the silver lining, says Arvind Krishnamurthy, professor and head, surgical oncology, Cancer Institute, WIA, is a decline in incidence. "Despite not having a robust national screening or vaccination programme as yet, the number of cases are decreasing. This could be attributable to a number of factors including sexual hygiene, age of pregnancy and number of children, use of contraception and the immune status of individuals," he said.

Dr Krishnamoorthy stressed the need for a combination of awareness programmes, a vaccination programme and regular screening to prevent new cases and deaths. He also pointed to the need to eradicate stigma through education programmes ."The goal should be to detect at the precancerous stage so they do not progress to full-blown cancer. At that stage, it is 100% curable," he said.

Cervical cancer screening

Up until some years ago, the gold standard, world over, to screen for cervical cancer, used to be the pap smear, says Jaishree Gajaraj, former president of The Obstetric & Gynaecological Society of Southern India. The pap smear involves the scraping and brushing of cells from the cervix. These cells are then examined. The smear is recommended every three years, for women between the ages of 25 and 65, barring high-risk groups, for whom the recommendation is once a year, says Dr. Gajaraj.

"The problem with the pap smear however is that it requires a cytologist to study the smear, and many places, especially in rural India, may not have access to the test itself, or to cytologists to study the samples. The second issue is that awareness continues to remain low, and even in urban areas where women come forward to do the test, it is difficult to get them to come back for follow-up screenings. Many women believe that if they've taken the pap smear once, it is enough for a lifetime, but this is not the case," she says.

As of 2019, the WHO says, fewer than one in 10 women in India had been screened in the previous five years.

Now, says Dr. Gajaraj, HPV DNA testing is the recommended method for screening for cervical cancer: this involves testing cells from the cervix for infections with any of the HPV types that could cause cancer. The WHO, too, recommends that HPV DNA testing be the first-choice screening method for cervical cancer prevention – these tests are less prone to quality problems and human errors, it says.

Dr. Krishanmoorthy added that self sampling could offer an additional option for cervical cancer screening: "Studies have shown that in the yield of results, samples taken by patients seem to be equivalent to physician-collected samples. Not all women may be able to do it or want to, but it would be useful for them to be given this option," he says.

HPV vaccine is highly effective in prevention of certain serotypes which cause 70% of cervical cancers.
GETTY IMAGES

> Reports that the Centre would roll out a vaccination programme n June 2023, covering 2.55 crore girls did not materialise

The vaccine

There is some history to the HPV vaccine rollout in India: in 2010, a U.S.-based international non-profit PATH, which began a trial of the vaccine in Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, faced major backlash after the deaths of seven girls. A Parliamentary Standing Committee that looked into the issue in 2013 strongly criticised both PATH and the Indian Council of Medical Research and the Department of Health Research, stating: "The choice of countries and population groups; the monopolistic nature, at that point of time of the product being pushed; the unlimited market potential and opportunities in the universal immunization progammes of the respective countries are all pointers to a well planned scheme to commercially exploit a situation."

Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable forms of cancer if detected early and managed effectively. The WHO's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization (SAGE) says that the HPV vaccine is highly effective for the prevention of HPV serotypes 16&18, which cause 70% of cervical cancers.

In a recommendation in April 2022, SAGE stated that its review concluded that even a single-dose of HPV vaccine delivers solid protection against HPV that is comparable to two-dose schedules. "The new SAGE recommendation is underpinned by concerns over the slow introduction of the HPV vaccine into immunisation programs and overall low population coverage, especially in poorer countries," it stated.

What are the government's plans?

There are currently two vaccines available in India that protect against the disease: Merck's Gardasil and Serum Institute of India's Cervavac, which was launched last year.

A Serum Institute of India spokesperson, in an email, said its vaccine, Cervavac, was priced at Rs. 2,000 per dose. The Institute has a production capacity of around 2-3 million doses of the vaccine, but it plans to expand this capacity, with a target of reaching 60 to 70 million doses.

In 2018 Sikkim became the first State in the country to introduce the vaccine. The vaccine (Gardasil) was provided free, under the State budget. All girls aged between 9 and 14 years were given two doses, separated by six months. Coverage of the first and second rounds was reported at over 95%. In 2022, India's National Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (NTAGI) had recommended introducing the HPV vaccine in the country's Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP). A one-time catch-up vaccine was to be provided for 9 to 14-year-old adolescent girls, and subsequently, with a routine introduction at nine years.

Initially, reports had indicated that the Central government would roll out a vaccination programme in six states in June 2023, targeting girls between the ages of nine and 14, covering 2.55 crore girls. However, this did not materialise. This month, media reports suggested that the drive may be rolled out in the second quarter of this year, to be executed in three phases over three years. Despite these reports though, the Union Health Ministry, as of last week, has maintained that it is yet to take a decision on starting the HPV campaign.

Globally, 100 countries have introduced the HPV vaccine into their national schedule, but significantly, this covers only 30% of the global target population, as per the WHO.

Paediatricians are now recommending the vaccine routinely for girls from the ages of nine to 15, says R. Somasekar, a member of the Indian Academy of Paediatrics. "Giving the dose early ensures the best efficacy and maximum protection," he says, pointing out that the vaccine can be given to adults as well, as it protects from ano-genital warts. "The ideal age is about 10 to 12 as the vaccine offers the best and longest protection when taken early, but it can be given any time up to the age of 45," says Dr. Gajaraj.

(zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in)

THE GIST

- Though India is unlikely to meet vaccination goals researchers have noticed a decline in incidence. This could be attributable to sexual hygiene, age of pregnancy and number of children, use of contraception and immune status of individuals
- HPV DNA testing is the recommended screening method for cervical cancer. It involves testing cells from the cervix for infections with any of the HPV types that could cause cancer. The WHO recommends HPV DNA be the first-choice screening method for cervical cancer prevention
- Cervical cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable forms of cancer if detected early and managed effectively

HUMERUS

RAVIKANTH

Tamil Nadu focuses on 'Walk-In' model that provides all TB services under the same roof

Serena Josephine M.

India has a stated goal of eliminating tuberculosis by 2025. Accelerated efforts will be required to meet this target. Tamil Nadu has taken a step towards achieving this goal by improving and focusing on services at the primary healthcare-level. The State has rolled out walk-in TB centres as a one-stop solution. All services starting with screening to monetary assistance and provision of nutritional supplements will be provided under one roof.

In an article – 'Walk-In Centre – One Stop TB Solution – A Model Game Changer in Tuberculosis Control' - published in the State's public health journal, officials of the directorates of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and of Medical and Rural Health Services have outlined the need for strengthening of TB-related services at primary health care facilities and how such walk-in TB centres could improve TB diagnosis, care and support.

According to the Tamil Nadu TB prevalence survey 2019-2022, the prevalence of TB in the State was 210 per lakh population. In 2022, the State had a case notification rate of 126 cases per lakh people. The aim is to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal related to TB by 2025, that is 90% reduction in TB deaths and 80% reduction in TB incidence rate by 2030 compared to the levels in 2015. Early diagnosis and treatment will play a crucial role in achieving this.

The authors – Anandan Mohan, Sudhakar Thangarasu, Palani Sampath, T.S. Selvavinayagam and Asha Frederick – observed that decentralisation of laboratory services was deemed required for patients to receive testing at neighbouring medical facilities. However in fact most testing takes place in secondary and tertiary health facilities.

To strengthen services at primary health facilities, the State went on to adopt an idea – "Walk-in Centre - One Stop TB Solution" in which a single primary facility is designated as a walk-in TB centre in each block. Over 100 walk-in centres have been rolled out. The aim is to expand to all 424 upgraded Primary Health Centres (PHC).

Dr. Selvavinayagam, Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine, said, so far, TB elimination was a vertical programme. "Since we are aiming at elimination, it should be community-based and decentralised. Only then is early diagnosis and identification of the infected and high risk individuals possible. Compliance with treatment can be achieved by close monitoring," he said.

> A single primary facility has been designated as walk-in TB centre in each block.

"The CB-NAAT enables accurate and quick results, and paves the way for early diagnosis," he added.

Dr. Asha Frederick, State TB Officer, added the idea was to quicken the diagnostic process. "By making rapid molecular testing available at the designated facility, we can reduce the turnaround time to determine the resistance status," she said.

What will the centres offer? Diagnostic tests (microscopy/Nucleic Acid Amplification Test) must be available. Appropriate linkages for chest X-ray need to be identified such as the nearest community health centres, government taluk hospital or government medical college hospitals. Patients should be initiated on treatment within 24 hours of receiving their test results. Those diagnosed with TB should be screened for other immunocompromised diseases.

Family members and close contacts will be screened for TB and preventive therapy will begin for all close contacts. Patients diagnosed with TB must get monthly clinical and laboratory follow-up at the end of the intensive phase and continuation phase. The medical officer has to ensure that every patient receives the Direct Benefit Transfer – financial incentive of ₹500 per month, while nutritional support with a high protein and vitamin-rich diet can be provided with the help of volunteers, NGOs and using CSR funding from industries.

Dr. Selvavinayagam added that the centres would ensure continuity of treatment, and when on the path of TB elimination, a community approach would help in sustainability and provide results.

(serena.m@thehindu.co.in)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Shri. Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

Shri. D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

"We all have a right to Clean Air, And we all have a Responsibility to Protect the Environment"

A Pollution-Free Vehicle can Save our Lives

Things to be Done

Sri Ramalinga Reddy, Hon'ble Minister for Transport and Muzrai Department at a programme to create awareness about Pollution-Free Environment.

Use of mass transport such as BMTC, KSRTC, Metro to control air pollution.

Use bicycle for short Distance

Putting emphasis on battery-operated vehicles, LPG/CNG vehicles, and BS6 vehicles

Keeping the vehicles in good condition

Vehicles should be inspected at air pollution testing centers on time and obtaining a Pollution Under Control Certificate is mandatory.

Adverse Effects:

Be aware that the gases such as Carbon Dioxide (Co_2), Carbon Monoxide (CO), Lead (Pb), Nitrogen oxide (NO_x), Sulphur Dioxide (SO_2) and Suspended Particulated Matter (SPM) emitted by vehicles are harmful to adversely affecting the environment and human health.

As enshrined in our Constitution - to safeguard public property and to abjure violence is the fundamental duty of every citizen of India.

Dr. N.V. Prasad I.A.S.
Government Secretary,
Transport Department.

Yogeesh A.M. I.A.S.
Commissioner,
Transport & Road Safety Authority Bengaluru

J. Gnanendra Kumar
Additional Transport Commissioner
(Environment and e-governance)

MUTUAL FUNDS Sahi Hai

Balancing Opportunities

Rolling 3YR CAGR			
% Occurrences with returns at	<0 pct	0-8 pct	>8pct
Nifty 50	2.8	24.4	72.8
Multi-Asset Portfolio	0.0	32.7	67.3

Back testing of the proposed portfolio says that the addition of Gold and Debt to Equity demonstrates that the occurrence of a loss is eliminated when you hold your investment for at least 3 years, and also the portfolio has a high frequency of delivering inflation beating returns. Average inflation during this period has been 6.43% per annum.

Source: Bloomberg; Computation: In-house. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Rolling Returns calculated on a daily basis. Multi asset model portfolio considers theoretical allocation of 25% to Gold, 10% to 10Y G-secs and the rest towards Nifty 50. Equity allocation to Nifty 50 ranges from 50% to 65% based on asset allocation framework using market valuations. Past performance may or may not sustained in the future. The index used is CPI combined (2012 base).

SUNDARAM MUTUAL
UNEARTHING OPPORTUNITIES

NEW FUND OFFER

SUNDARAM
Multi Asset Allocation Fund

An open-ended scheme investing in Equity, Debt & Money Market Instruments and Gold ETFs

NFO CLOSES TODAY JAN 19, 2024

Add **SHOCK ABSORBERS** to your equity portfolio!
EQUITIES often react sharply to external shocks.
GOLD is viewed as a Safe Harbour.

The 4 instances highlighted in the table are examples of this:			
		Nifty 50(%)	Gold(%)
Taper tantrum	Jun '13 to Aug '13	-6.3	24.6
Correction post election rally	Mar '15 to Feb '16	-17.7	11.2
Covid pandemic	Jan '20 to Mar '20	-28.6	0.7
Ukraine-Russia conflict	Jan '22 to Jun '22	-9.0	6.3

Source: Bloomberg, In-house computation. Gold returns based on MCX Gold Index. Data from Jan 2010 to Sep 2023. Past performance may or may not be sustained in the future.

Benchmark

NIFTY 500 TRI (65%) + NIFTY Short Duration Debt Index (10%) + Domestic Prices of Gold (25%)

Fund

Investors understand that their principal will be at **Very High Risk**

This product is suitable for investors who are seeking*
- Long term capital growth.
- Equity & Equity related Securities, Debt & Money Market Instruments, Gold ETFs.

*Investors should consult their financial advisers if in doubt about whether the product is suitable for them.

Scan to Invest Now

Consult your Mutual Fund Distributor or call us on 1860 425 7237 for more details. /SundaramAMC /SundaramMF /sundarammutualofficial /sundarammutual

Mutual fund investments are subject to market risks, read all scheme related documents carefully.

A BG-BGE

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Rise in India's oilmeal exports in the December quarter

16 in percentage. The country's oilmeal exports rose to 12.20 lakh tonne in the third quarter of the current fiscal compared to the year-ago period. Around 10.53 lakh tonne of oilmeals were exported during the October-December quarter of 2022-23. PTI

Loss due to drought-induced decline in Panama canal traffic

700 in $ million. A severe drought that began last year has forced authorities to slash ship crossings by 36% in the Panama Canal. Canal authorities attributed the drought to the El Niño weather pattern. AP

The troops to be involved in largest-ever NATO exercise

90,000 NATO said it would begin its largest military exercise in decades, testing allies' ability over months to engage in a conflict with an adversary as capable as Russia. AFP

The amount Jet Airways owners need to deposit in SBI

150 in ₹ crore. The Supreme Court directed the Jalan-Kalrock consortium, the new owners of Jet Airways, to deposit the amount in SBI by January 31. They have to pay over ₹200 crore towards PF and gratuity dues. PTI

The number of new aircraft India needs in next 20 years

2,840 India will also need 41,000 pilots and 47,000 technical staff in the next 20 years, according to aerospace corporation, Airbus. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

How satellites track the weather

What do the different colours on an IMD weather map indicate? How does fog or snow show up on these maps? What are radiometres and atmospheric sounders and how do they help the satellites measure weather conditions?

EXPLAINER

Vasudevan Mukunth

The story so far:

Large parts of North India, including Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Delhi, and Punjab, have been grappling with heavy fog since December 2023. At around 2 pm on January 16, for example, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) warned of a high likelihood of "very dense fog" in Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi, where it said visibility would be lower than 50 metres in "night/morning hours". It issued similar alerts for Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Madhya Pradesh, where it said visibility could be limited to 50-200 metres. On the social media platform X (formerly Twitter), the IMD has accompanied these alerts with maps from the INSAT 3D satellite, and sometimes from the INSAT 3DR satellite. The fog in these maps is both clearly visible and annotated by the IMD.

How does one read the maps? What do the colours represent?

At the bottom right of a map from 2021 (map 1) is a clue – 'Night Microphysics'. According to a paper published by IMD scientists in February 2019, the INSAT 3D satellite has a red-green-blue, or RGB, imager whose images' colours are determined by two factors: solar reflectance and brightness temperature.

Solar reflectance is a ratio of the amount of solar energy reflected by a surface and the amount of solar energy incident on it. Brightness temperature has to do with the relationship between the temperature of an object and the corresponding brightness of its surface. It is different from temperature as we usually understand it – like the temperature we 'feel' when we touch a glass of hot tea – because brightness temperature also has to do with how the tea glass emits the thermal radiation, which is at different frequencies in different directions.

The INSAT 3D's 'day microphysics' data component studies solar reflectance at three wavelengths: 0.5 micrometres (visible radiation), 1.6 micrometres (shortwave infrared radiation) and 10.8 micrometres (thermal infrared radiation). That is, detectors onboard the satellite track radiation coming from over India in these wavelengths. The strength of the 0.5 micrometre visible signal determines the amount of green colour; the strength of the 1.6 micrometre shortwave infrared signal, the amount of red colour; and the strength of the 10.8 micrometre thermal infrared signal, the amount of blue colour. This way, the INSAT 3D computer determines the colour on each point of the image.

How does the satellite track snow?

According to the paper, "the major applications of this colour scheme are an analysis of different cloud types, initial stages of convection, maturing stages of a thunderstorm, identification of snow area, and the detection of fires."

While the solar reflectance of snow and that of clouds is similar in the visible part of the spectrum, snow strongly absorbs radiation of wavelength 1.6 micrometre, that is the shortwave infrared. As a result, when the satellite tracks snow, the red component of the colour scheme becomes very weak.

How are the colours determined?

The satellite's 'night microphysics' component is a little more involved. Here, two colours are determined not by a single signal but by the strength of the difference between two signals. The computer determines the amount of red colour according to the difference between two thermal infrared signals – 12 micrometre and 10 micrometre. The amount of green colour varies according to the difference between a thermal infrared and a middle infrared signal – 10.8 micrometre and 3.9 micrometre.

The amount of blue colour is not a difference but is determined by the strength of a thermal infrared signal of wavelength 10.8 micrometre.

For example, in map 3, the data indicates three kinds of clouds. ('K' denotes the temperature differences in kelvin.) A mature cumulonimbus ("CB") cell, possibly part of a tropical storm, hangs over West Bengal and is visible mostly in red, but whose blue component indicates it is also very cold. Further north of Delhi, flecks of green dominate, indicating a preponderance of lower clouds. The sky even further north is dominated by a high and heavy cloud system that encompasses lower clouds as well.

By combining day and night microphysics data, atmospheric scientists can elucidate the presence of moisture droplets of different shapes and temperature differences over time, and in turn track the formation, evolution and depletion of cyclones and other weather events.

For example, taking advantage of the fact that INSAT 3D can produce images based on signals of multiple wavelengths, the authors of the 2019 paper have proposed day and night microphysics data that they say would indicate a thunderstorm impending in one to three hours.

How do the satellites collect weather data?

Both INSAT 3D and INSAT 3DR use radiometres to make their spectral measurements. A radiometre is a device that measures various useful properties of radiation, typically by taking advantage of radiation's interaction with matter, for example in the form of temperature or electrical activity.

Both satellites also carry atmospheric sounders. These are devices that measure temperature and humidity, and study water vapour as a function of their heights from the ground.

Scientists combine the radiometre and sounder measurements to understand various atmospheric characteristics.

What weather satellites does India have?

According to the INSAT 3DR brochure, its radiometer is an upgraded version of the very-high-resolution radiometer (VHRR) that the Kalpana 1 and INSAT 3A satellites used (launched in 2002 and 2003, respectively).

The Space Application Centre's brief for INSAT 3A states: "For meteorological observation, INSAT-3A carries a three channel Very High Resolution Radiometer (VHRR) with 2 km resolution in the visible band and 8 km resolution in thermal infrared and water vapour bands." The radiometers onboard 3D and 3DR have "significant improvements in spatial resolution, number of spectral channels and functionality".

The Kalpana 1 and INSATs 3A, 3D, and 3DR satellites aided India's weather monitoring and warning services with the best technology available in the country at the time, and with each new satellite being a better-equipped version of the previous one. So while Kalpana 1 had a launch mass of 1,060 kg and carried a early VHRR and a data-relay transponder, INSAT 3DR had a launch mass of 2,211 kg – in 2016 – and carried an upgraded VHRR, a sounder, a data-relay transponder and a search-and-rescue transponder. India deactivated Kalpana 1 in September 2017, after 15 years in orbit.

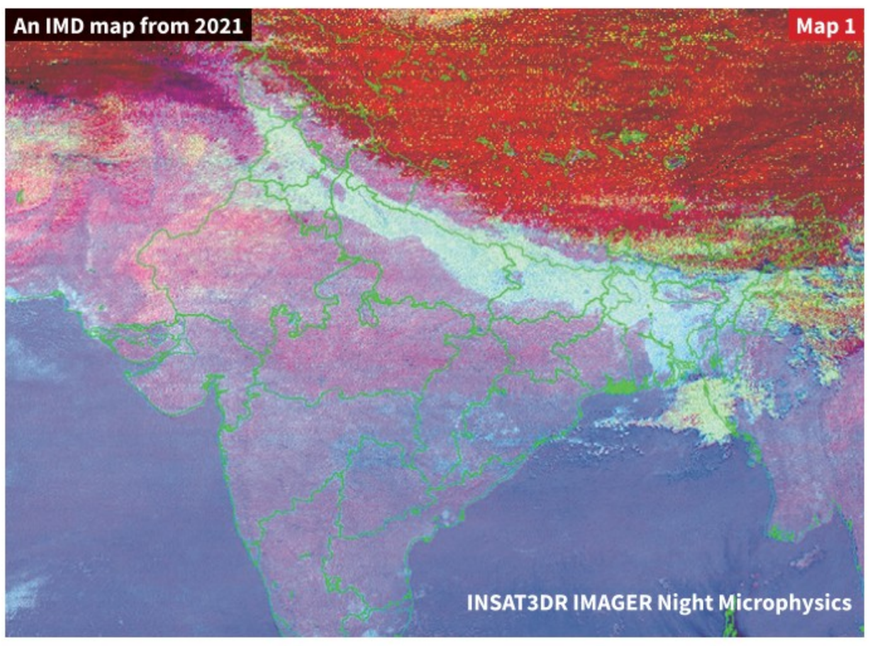
The INSAT 3D and 3DR satellites are currently active in geostationary orbits around the earth, at inclinations of 82 degrees and 74 degrees east longitudes respectively.

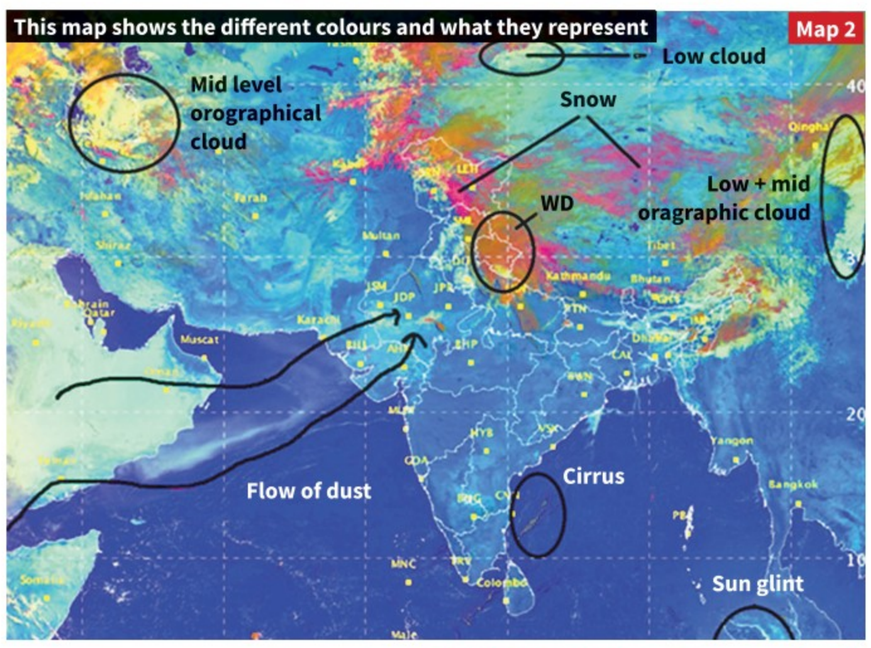
In February 2024, the Indian Space Research Organisation is expected to launch the INSAT 3DS meteorological satellite onboard its GSLV Mk II launch vehicle, with a launch mass of two tonnes. While "3DR" stood for "3D repeat", "3DS" stands for "3D second repeat".

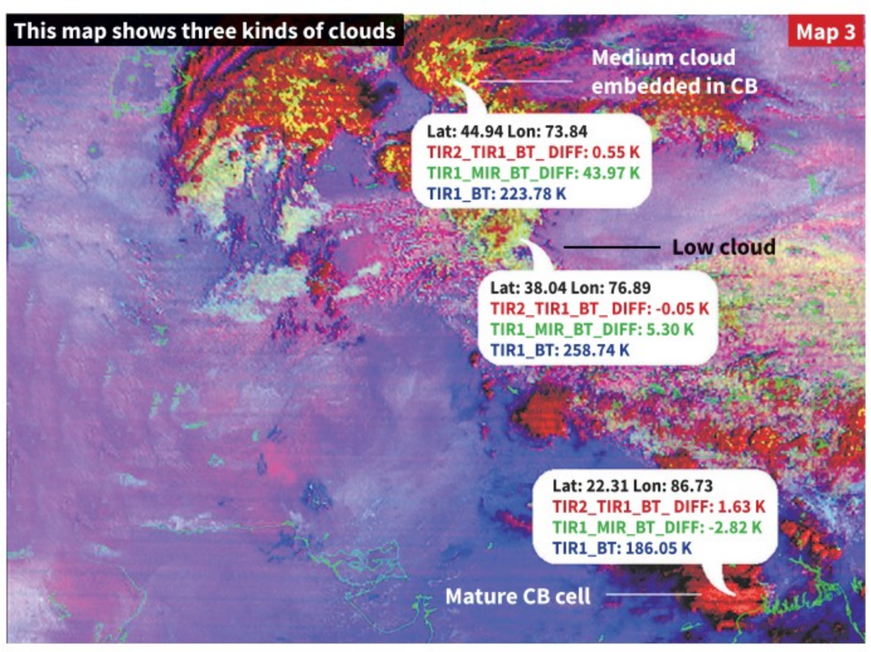
This article was first published on the author's blog and is republished here with updates.

Reading weather maps

The IMD has alerted certain States in North India on the likelihood of 'very dense fog'. These alerts are accompanied by annotated maps from INSAT satellites







Source: IMD/ X account, J. Earth Syst. Sci. (2019) 128:36

THE GIST

- According to a paper published by IMD scientists in February 2019, the INSAT 3D satellite has a red-green-blue, or RGB, imager whose images' colours are determined by two factors: solar reflectance and brightness temperature.
- The INSAT 3D and 3DR satellites are currently active in geostationary orbits around the earth, at inclinations of 82 degrees and 74 degrees east longitudes respectively.
- Both INSAT 3D and INSAT 3DR use radiometres to make their spectral measurements.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JAN. 19		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:14
RISE	12:50	SET 00:57
SATURDAY, JAN. 20		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:15
RISE	13:37	SET 01:52
SUNDAY, JAN. 21		
RISE	06:46	SET 18:15
RISE	14:26	SET 02:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	21
Mysuru	31	20
Bengaluru	29	17

Bengaluru Today
29°C A dry weather to prevail. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be cool and hazy.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be slight warm. Night will be slight cool and hazy.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2024
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Eight-year-old boy, a ragpicker, electrocuted near Gauribidanur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In another case of electrocution, an eight-year-old boy, Nagendra, lost his life on Thursday morning while trying to pull a guy wire installed in a transformer in Manchenalli town, near Gauribidanur in Chickballapur district in Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) limits.

The boy was a ragpicker, and the incident occurred while he tried to pick up some waste near a transformer adjacent to a drain. As he pulled the guy wire with force, it came in contact with the Low Tension circuit and resulted in electrocution, Bescom officials said.

"There is no fault of Bescom in this case. Senior officials have visited the spot, and we are awaiting the report of the Electrical Inspectorate," Bescom said in a press release. It was also mentioned that Chickballapur - Gauribidanur National Highway work is going on near the accident spot. The repair work of the drainage line just beside the transformer to which the guy wire was attached was also going on. The Gauribidanur rural police filed an unnatural death report after the electrocution.

In November 2023, Bescom drew the ire of the citizens after the electrocution of a 23-year-old woman and her baby girl near Kadugodi in Bengaluru. Between 2018 and 2023 (October), a total of 607 fatal electrical accidents occurred in the Bescom jurisdiction.

The accident spot at Manchenalli town, near Gauribidanur.

Power shutdown today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

There will be no power supply on Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. in the areas serviced from 66/11-kV Sarakki substation in view of taking up scheduled maintenance work. According to a Bescom release, the areas to be affected include Shakambarinagar, Pipeline Road, Puttenahalli, Jayanagar 4th, 5th, 7th, and 8th Blocks, SBI Colony, LIC Colony, Venkatadri Layout, J.P. Nagar 5th and 6th Phases, 12th, 15th and 16th Crosses, J.P. Nagar, 1st to 6th Phases, Marenahalli, Bannerghatta Road, and Dollars Layout,.

State Bank of India
RAJAJINAGAR BRANCH (20348)
200/Y, 50th Cross, 12th Main, 3rd Block, Rajajinagar, Bengaluru-560010
Tel: 080-23151047; Fax: 080-2340296
Email: sbi.20348@sbi.co.in

GOLD ORNAMENTS AUCTION NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the following customer has pledged gold ornaments and has availed a gold loan at our branch. Notices sent to them have either been undelivered or returned / refused. Loans have also been not repaid. Therefore, the auction of gold ornaments (s) will be conducted as follows.

Date of Auction: 29.01.2024 | Time : 04.30 pm to 5.30 pm

Sl. No.	Name of the Borrower	Description of the Gold Ornaments (Gms)		Date of Sanction	Loan Ac Number	Amount Due to the Bank + Interest
		Gross	Net			
1	Hafeez Ahmed	112.60	64.00	21.10.2022	41368609292	Rs. 211514/- + Interest+ applicable Bank charges

The bank has the authority to accept or reject one or all the auctions without any reason.

Date: 19.01.2024 **BRANCH MANAGER**

Man complains of deceased wife's photo being misused

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Police suspect there is a possibility that the accused is misusing many inactive social media accounts for his benefit

A private firm employee has filed a complaint with the central division cybercrime police that fraudsters have morphed and uploaded his deceased wife's photo on a dating app.

Based on a complaint filed by Srinivas K., 45, a resident of S.R. Nagar, the police on Wednesday registered a case against an unknown person, charging him under section 66 C (identity theft) and section 67 (publishing or transmitting obscene material in electronic form) of the Information Technology Act, 2000.

The complainant said his wife died due to kidney-related ailments in January 2023. Since then, he has been using her phone and the Facebook account once in a while. On Tuesday, he logged into his wife's account to check for second-hand car sale details when an unidentified man sent a link to his WhatsApp account.

Upon clicking the link, he found the morphed picture of his wife, along with many other women uploaded on a dating app. The victim also shared the contact number of the accused, who is misusing the photographs of his wife. The police suspect that there is a possibility that the accused was misusing many inactive social media accounts for his benefit to carry out illegal activities.

Commercial Tax sleuths unearth multi-State ₹180 cr. GST racket

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commercial Taxes Department of Karnataka arrested a key mastermind of a multi-State multi-crore GST fraud ring in a two-day operation. The ring issued fake invoices totalling ₹1,008 crore. leading to illegally availing Input Tax Credit of ₹180 crore.

According to an official release, this operation spanning over two days, and conducted in collaboration with Kerala GST authorities, revealed significant fraudulent activities. The accused, Mohammed Siddiq, was caught in Mysuru on Wednesday.

"The accused used to acquire dummy GST registrations using forged documents, facilitating scrap businesses in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. He issued fake tax invoices, misappropriating Input Tax Credit without remitting the taxes to the governments in the initial transaction. The fraudulent network extended its operations to Kerala and Tamil Nadu, obtaining fake GST registrations to unlawfully transfer bogus Input Tax Credit to fake taxpayers registered in Karnataka. According to the officials, this aimed to offset outward tax liability, evading GST cash responsibility on outward supplies and resulting in substantial losses to the government exchequer," Commercial Tax Department said.

"The investigation exposed a systematic *modus operandi* orchestrated by the cartel, with accomplices in Mysuru, Mangaluru, and Kerala providing crucial support. Additionally, the complicity of certain auditors and GST practitioners in these fraudulent activities has been revealed," the department said.

Government of Maharashtra
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION HINGOLI

E-TENDER NOTICE NO 78 (IIIrd Call) YEAR 2023-2024

E-Tenders for ONE (01) works in B-1 form is invited by the Executive Engineer Public Works Division Hingoli Phone No 02456 220612 from the **registered** contractors in appropriate class of Public works Department of Govt of Maharashtra for the improvement roads/two yearly maintenance of roads/ repairs of building /Bridge /construction of new buildings/Gram Vikas works in Dist Hingoli

The details can be viewed and downloaded from following website

www.mahapwd.gov.in
https://mahaetenders.gov.in/

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division
Hingoli

IN THE COURT OF THE III ADDL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL AT: BENGALORE
G.& W.C. No. 97/2023

BETWEEN:
(1) KUMAR. VAISHNAV V MURTHY, Aged about 10 years, S/o. SriVenkatesh Murthy H.
(2) KUMAR. VAIBHAV V MURTHY, Aged about 10 years, S/o. SriVenkatesh Murthy H.
Since both are minors, Represented by their father Sri.Venkatesh Murthy H, Aged about 46 years, Residing at No. Sy.No.10/10, Brundavana Nilaya, Anjaneya Temple Road, Keregudadahalli, Chikkabanavara, Bengaluru - 560090 ..... **PETITIONERS**

AND:

NIL ..... **RESPONDENT**

PUBLIC NOTICE/ NOTICE OF APPEARANCE (Order 5 Rule 20 CPC)

WHEREAS, the Petitioners above named have filed the above petition under section 29, 31 read with section 8 of Guardian and Wards Act 1890 seeking permission for appointment of Sri.Venkatesh Murthy H, the father of minor petitioners to be appointed as the guardian and also permission to sell the schedule "B" & "C" property belongs to minor petitioners share.

Interested parties are hereby called to appear in the Court of in the Court of the III Addl. Senior Civil Judge Bangalore Rural at Bengalore.

in person or by pleader duly instructed on 22.02.2024 at 11 a.m. information to showcause against the petitioners falling wherein the appearance will be heard and consider respondents are Nil.

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

Item No.1 - All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy.No.48/3 measuring 1 Acre 27 Guntas duly converted vide No. ALN (N) SR 90/2005-06, Dated: 3-11-2005 and No.BDS.ALN.SR (N)/113/1994-95 dated: 13-03-1995, issued by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore situated at Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Item No.2 - All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy No.48/3 measuring 0-10 Guntas duly converted vide No.ALN SR (NY) 19/2006-07, issued by the special Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore situated at Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Item No.3 - All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy.No.48/3 measuring 0-04 Guntas duly converted vide Conversion Order Dated: 3-11-3005 Vide No.ALN SR (N) 90/ 2005-06, issued by the special Deput Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore situated at Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

Item No.4 - All that piece and parcel of converted land bearing Sy.No.48/3 measurin 0-10 Guntas duly converted vide Conversion Order Dated: 3-11-3005 Vide No.ALN SR (N) 90/ 2005-06, issued by the special Depu Commissioner, Bangalore District, Bangalore situated at Chikkasandra Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk.

The Item Nos.1,2,3 and 4 of the Schedule A Properties are composite a contiguous properties and are together bounder on:

East By : Property of Sri. Govindappa; West By : Property of Sri. Ramaiah;
North By : Halla and Atameeya Gelayara Balaga Layout, South By : Property of Sri. Venkatabyrappa.

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

0.44% undivided right, title and interest in the Schedule A Property mentioned above which would work out to 434 Square feet, Approximately of the Schedule A Property in the subject matter of this Agreement.

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

Apartment No.427 on 4th Floor measuring Super Built Area of 1058 square feet in the building MAHAVEER RICH constructed on Schedule A Property with the floors ceiling and walls between units jointly belonging to such Apartment Owners equally, including share of common area with One car parking Area bearing No.62/427. The construction is Vitrified Flooring, Aluminum Windows and Teak Wood and Sal wood Frames and Doors, Separate Electricity, Common Water, including common area rights and Bounded on:

East by : Duct; West by : Passage & Duct;
North by : Set Back; South by : Flat No.425.

Given under my hand and seal of the court this 17 day of January 2024.

Advocate for Petitioner
SUBRAHMANYA HEGDE, Advocate
ANANDA & HEGDE LAW ASSOCIATES
No.76-77, Krishna Kripa Building, Ground Floor,
2nd Main Road Sheshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020.

By Order of this Court
Sd/-
Chief Ministerial Office
Senior Civil Judge's Court
Bengaluru Rural Dist., Bengaluru

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Corrigendum-7 to Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/18/2023 Dated : 25-05-2023

Name of the Work : Construction of New Broad Gauge line including Signal & Telecommunication, Electrification & Electrical General Service works between Mid Section (Km:5.72) and Kuppam (KM:23.7) of Marikuppam - Kuppam New Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No. W.496/MKM-KPN-EPC-PHASE-2)**

Date of Closing

Existing	Revised
30-01-2024 (11:00 Hrs)	CANCELLED

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction / Works
Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/636/AAS/PRB/SWR/2023-24
South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

JHARKHAND FLYING INSTITUTE
(A Society of Civil Aviation Division)
GOVT. OF JHARKHAND
State Hangar, Airport Road, Hinoo, Ranchi-834002, Jharkhand
E-mail ID: govtfly.jfi@gmail.com

Notice No.- Website-01/2024-JFI-05 Date – 17-01-2024

Short Term Notice for Inviting Proposal for Enrolment of Web Developer Firm

1. **Introduction:**
For the smooth implementation of various training programs related to Aviation, in the state of Jharkhand, a committee named 'Jharkhand Flying Institute' has been constituted under the Cabinet Secretariat and Vigilance Department (Civil Aviation Division) under the Society Registration Act, 1860.
2. **Request for Proposal:-**
Jharkhand Flying Institute invites qualified and experienced web development firms to submit proposals for the creation of responsive portal, website, including domain registration and hosting services. The purpose of this initiative is to establish a user-friendly, informative, and accessible online platform that aligns with Jharkhand Flying Institute's mission and objectives. The selected firm will be responsible for designing, developing, and maintaining the website and portal.
3. **SCOPE OF WORK:-**
a) **Design and Development:**
- Create a modern, visually appealing website.
- Ensure compatibility with various devices and browsers.
- Implement user-friendly navigation and interface.

b) **Domain Registration:-**
- Propose and register a suitable domain name reflecting Jharkhand Flying Institute identity.

c) **Hosting Services:-**
- Provide reliable hosting services with sufficient bandwidth and storage capacity.
- Ensure security measures to safeguard against potential threats.

d) **Content Management:-**
- Implement a robust content management system (CMS) for easy updates and maintenance.

e) **Compliance:-**
- Ensure the website complies with relevant accessibility standards and government regulations.

4. **Eligibility Criteria for Applicant firms:-**
a. Should have PAN and GST number registered in Jharkhand for more than 3 years.
b. Should have office in Ranchi established for more than 3 years.
c. Relevant experience (work order) of providing services in at least 3 Jharkhand Government Department.
d. Relevant experience of handling min. 3 Government office projects in current financial year.
e. Average Turnover of Rs. 1.00 crores in last 3 financial year.
f. Self- declaration of not being blacklisted or debarred from any Government department.
5. **Terms of Payment:-**
The firms fulfilling the required eligibility criteria will be finally selected and empanelled by Jharkhand Flying Institute. Work-wise rates will be received from this empanelled firm/firms from time to time and payment will be made as per rules after the work is executed accordingly.

Note:- Interested Firms should send their company profile with relevant technical specification as per required in proposal and work order of the services provided in the Jharkhand Government department in a sealed envelope to Jharkhand Flying Institute (A Society of Civil Aviation Division) State Hangar, Airport Road, Hinoo, Ranchi-834002 on or before 31st January 2024 till 5:00 PM with attaching a DD of Rs. 25,000/- (non refundable) in the favour of Jharkhand Flying Institute, payable at Ranchi as Enrolment fee.

Sd/- Managing Director
Jharkhand Flying Institute
(A Society of Civil Aviation Division)

PR 316373 Civil Aviation (23-24)_D

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

ANTHRO MEANS VAID SIR
Live Seminar
(Online & Offline both)
Jan 24 at 12 pm
Batch Starts: Feb 21
HIGHLIGHTS
- Free Repeat Classes
- Free Test Series
- Free Time-Bound Answer Writing
- Free Interview Guidance
- Full Refund for IAS IPS & IFS (Open Cat. Cut off)

For Details visit www.vaidsics.com
Or Youtube.com/@VaidsICSDelhi | Ph: 9999946748

EDUCATIONAL
VACANCIES

GOYAL EDUCATIONAL Trust (R) : Global Institute of Business Studies Site No. 195, Sy. No. 44/4, 44/5, 44/8, Begur Hobli, Begur, Bangalore - 68 Web : www.gibs.edu.in Walk-in- Interview. GIBS applications for the post of Principal / Director, Professor, Asst. Professor in the Subject of Management (Marketing, HR, Finance etc.). Walkin with Application, Detailed Resume of all required documents, Qualifications & Experience as per AICTE Norms. Eligible candidate may attend interview with all original documents. Interview Time: 2 to 4pm. (Mon-Fri) Place of Interview : GIBS Campus, Site No 195, Sy. No. 44/4, 44,5, 44/8, Begur Hobli, Begur, Bangalore 560068 -Hon. Chairman.

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

IAS INTERVIEW
KERALA SAMAJAM IAS ACADEMY, Bengaluru (Since 2011)
Offline Mocks with Feedback from: Eminent Civil Servants and Experts
On 21st & 28th January 2024
Send your DAFs (I and II) to:
WhatsApp: 8431414491
ATTEND AND ENSURE IAS
ONLINE MOCKS ALSO AVAILABLE

REAL ESTATE

SALE 3 BHK 30x45 Duplex Independent West facing House 9th Block Jayanagar East end C Main Road, Clear Titles, Rs. 28,000 Psft, Serious buyers only Ph: 9845053662 Brokers Excuse.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, No 10490218W Rank Hav Name Siddappa Hidkal presently residing at Bekkeri (Vill&Po), Raibag (Teh) Belgaum (Dist), Karnataka-591317 that have declared to change my daughter name from Heeranya to Heeranya Hidkal vide affidavit dated 20.12.2023 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bangalore

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public that the lands described in the Schedule below were acquired for the benefit of our client, M/s. Royal Fragrances Private Limited. In Writ Petition No. 13570/2023 (Royal Fragrances Private Limited v. Karnataka Industrial Development Board and others), the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka has passed an interim order dated 14 December 2023, in favour of our client, directing the Respondents therein (KIADB, State Level Single Window Clearance Committee, Managing Director, Karnataka Udyog Mitra, Sai Srushti Infra Tech Private Limited and M/s. RR Platina Infra) to not create any further encumbrance on the Schedule lands until further orders. The general public is hereby warned not to deal with the Respondents or any entity claiming through or under them in respect of the Schedule lands, in violation of the said interim order, and any person or entity dealing with the Schedule lands would do so at their own risk as to the consequences thereof.

SCHEDULE

EXTENT: 22 ACRES 2 ½ GUNTAS
DESCRIPTION: All that piece and parcel of land bearing Sy. Nos. bearing 10/1, 10/2, 10/3, 10/11, 10/12, 10/14, 10/15, 11/1, 11/2, 11/3, 54/1, 54/2, 54/3, 54/4, 54/5, 54/6, 54/7 and 54/8 of Devarabeesanahalli Village and Sy. Nos. 29/1, 29/2, 30/1 and 32 of Kariyammana Agrahara Village, Varthur Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and Bengaluru Urban District, as acquired vide final notification dated 23 February 2004 published in Part III of the Gazette of Karnataka on 28 February 2004.

Pradeep Nayak
Keystone Partners
Advocates & Solicitors,
2nd Floor, 35/2 Cunningham Road, Bengaluru – 560 052
Email: bengaluru@keystone.law
Phone: 080-41135813

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIX ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-30)
O. S. No. 6278/2021
Hg. 01-03-2024

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, and branch office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068. through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Adnan Siddiqui ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Adnan Siddiqui
S/o. Vakeel Ahmad Siddiqui, Aged about 28 years, No. 706 Ground Floor, 10th Cross, 16th Main Btm 2nd Stage, Near To Mico Layout Police Station, Bengaluru- 560076.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 6,55,816/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **XXIX** Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-30),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **01.03.2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **10th** day of **January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE LXI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-62)
O. S. No. 1199/2023
Hg. 12/03/2024

Between :
M/s ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068 And also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Nagaraja Rao K. ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Nagaraja Rao K.
S/o. Kubendrappa
Aged About 47 Years,
R/at No. No. 190, 6th Cross, 3rd A Main Road, RHCS Layout, Annapoorneswari Nagar, Bangalore- 560 091.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 5,37,690.97/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LXI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-62), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 12/03/2024 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **10th** day of **January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE XXIV ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-6)
O. S. No. 7174/2022
Hg. 22-02-2024

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race- Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068 and also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. M Chandrasekar ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. M. Chandrasekar
S/o Mahalingam
Aged About 35 Years,
R/at No. 9, Prakash Gowda Building, 2nd Floor, Dodoathogur, Main Road Electronic City, Jum Complex, Near MM High School, Bangalore- 560100.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 8,86,407.85/-** along with interest at the rate of **24% P.A.** against you, and you are summoned to appear before the **XXIV** Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru **(C.C.H.-6),** in person or by a pleader, on the day of **22/02/2024** at **11:00 AM** to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **09th** day of **January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

IN THE COURT OF THE LVI ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU (CCH-57)
O. S. No. 2474/2023

Between :
M/s. ICICI Bank Limited, having its registered office at : Landmark, Race-Course Circle, Vadodara- 390 007, having its head office at and Zonal office at : 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560 068 and also having branch at M.G. Road, Bengaluru, through its Authorised representative Mr. Rohith Ali M. ...Plaintiff
And :
Mr. Kiran SK ...Defendant

SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT BY WAY OF PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

Defendant :
Mr. Kiran SK
S/o. Subhash Kathare
Aged About 34 Years
R/at No. 55, Shri Rangaswamy Nilaya, 2nd Floor, Janatha Colony, Kumbalgodu, Near Post Office Bus Stop, Bangalore- 560 074.

Whereas the plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit for recovery of money for sum of **Rs. 5,55,354.22/-** along with interest at the rate of 24% P.A. against you, and you are summoned to appear before the LVI Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge at Bengaluru (C.C.H.-57), in person or by a pleader, on the day of 19/02/2024 at 11:00 AM to answer the claim, failing to which the suit would be disposed of Ex-Parte.

Given under my hand and seal of the court on this the **12th** day of **January, 2024** at Bangalore.

By order of the Court
Assistant Registrar,
Hon'ble City Civil Court,
Bengaluru

Advocate for Plaintiff
B.S. Jeevan Kumar
Vidhii Partners,
Advocates,
No. 701, Queens Corner 'A',
3, Queens Road,
Bengaluru- 01.

LEGAL NOTICE

COURT NOTICE

Before the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala at Ernakulam
Crl. Rev. Pet. No. 690 of 2022

Petitioner / Petitioner:
S. Vijayan, aged 68 years.
S/o. N.R. Padmanabhan Residing at: TC 6/1893 (4) Koothu Road, Elippodu, Vattiyoorkkavu, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 013
Vs.

Respondents / Respondents:
1. Central Bureau of Investigation, represented by the Asst. Solicitor General, Office of the Asst. Solicitor General, High Court of Kerala, Ernakulam - 682031
2. Superintendent of Police, SPE, CBI, Vallakkadavu, Thiruvananthapuram - 695008
3. Rajendranath Kaul,S/o. Late PTTL Kaul, Joint Director / IGP (Rtd). CBI, 109, Mythri Apartments, MayurVihar Phase 1, New Delhi-91
4. K.V. Harivalsan, Dy.Sp, CBI, Ernakulam (during 1994). C/o. Smt. Syamala Devi, W/o. K. Rajendran, Puthussery House, Elamkulam Village, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam-682 020
5. Salil Kumar Chathopadhyaya, S/o. Late Ramapada Chathopadhyaya, Employee of Public Sector undertaking, 29 Balaram Basughat Road, Bhavanipur Post, Kolkatha - 700 025
6. Pratik Kumar Chatterjee, S/o. Late P.B. Chatterjee, Advisor in ONGC, 74 C Pocket-A, SFS Flats, Sector G, MayurVihar Phase - III, New Delhi - 110 096
7. N. M Saseendran Nair, S/o. Madhavan Pillai, Chief Manager ONGC, N.A. 1227, VasanthKunj, New Delhi - 110070
8. Nambi Narayanan, S/o. Late Shankaralingam, R/o. TC. No. 36/97, Sangeetha, NSS Lane, Perumthanni, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 008
9. Sankarakumar, S/o. Nambi Narayanan, R/o. TC No. 36/97, Sangeetha, NSS Lane, Perumthanni, Thiruvananthapuram - 695 008
10. Syamala Devi, W/o. K. Rajendran, Puthussery House, Elamkulam Village, Kanayannur Taluk, Ernakulam - 679340
11. Anjali Sreevasthava, W/o. Reman Sreevasthava, Anjali, V P No. 10333A, Kodunganoor, Vattiyurkavu, Thiruvananthapuram- 695013.
12. Mr R.B. Sreekumar IPS (Rtd) Former DGP of Gujarat, Plot No. 193, Sector - 8. Gandhinagar, Gujarat - 382 007.
13. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, North Block, New Delhi - 110 001

NOTICE

Take notice that the above Criminal Revision Petition filed by the petitioner seeking to set aside the order dated 03. 02. 2022 in Crl. M.P. 111/2021 passed by the Special Judge's Court. (SPE/CBI). Thiruvananthapuram and for passing such other appropriate orders is under the consideration of the Hon'ble High Court of Kerala. Despite earnest efforts, notice could not be served on respondents Nos. 3, 4, 5, 7, 10 & 11. Respondent No. 3 Mr. Rajendranath Kaul Respondent No. 4 Mr. K. V. Harivalsan, Respondent No. 5 Mr. Salil Kumar Chathopadhyaya, Respondent No. 7 Mr. N.M Saseendran Nair, Respondent No. 10 Mrs. Syamala Devi, Respondent No. 11 Mrs. Anjali Sreevasthava are hereby informed that they are likely to be affected in the event of the prayers in the Criminal Revision Petition being granted and hence, they may appear in person or through Counsel before Court on the next date of posting stated on 15-2-2024 failing which the Criminal Revision Petition is likely to be disposed of without hearing such persons.

Dated this the 8th day of January, 2024
Jinson Ouseph
Counsel for the petitioner

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Drive-Away Dolls*. YOUTUBE/FOCUS FEATURES

From 'Drive-Away Dolls' to 'Viduthalai: Part 2,' films to watch out for in 2024

The new year is looking up for movies, both in India and internationally. Have the Coen brothers split up for good? Will 'Challengers' score? What is Vathiyaar's backstory in 'Viduthalai'? A look at three movies set to release in 2024 and what makes them special

Preetha Jayaraman

The year 2024 is looking up for movies, both in India and internationally. Ethan Coen has his second solo directorial in the offing, while Luca Guadagnino and Vetrimaaran are bringing their much awaited films. After the carnage at the end of 2023, a look into the new year and what it holds.

'Drive-Away Dolls' – Ethan Coen

There was much furore among die-hard fans of the Coen brothers when they separated and started doing their own projects. Joel went off and directed *The Tragedy of Macbeth* and Ethan made *Jerry Lee Lewis: Trouble in Mind*, a documentary about the rock and roll legend. Ethan when presenting his documentary at Cannes in 2022 declared that he was done making movies, and the last two films the duo had made had left him jaded. Makes one wonder if it's the pressure of putting out decades of extraordinary content? Or is it just that the industry has morphed and evolved into a beast that bays for spectacle? Hollywood is producing grand spectacle after spectacle, with some of them just making a spectacle of themselves while others fill coffers, ka- ching over ka- ching. The brothers, however, never fit into any boxes and have remained creative vagabonds so Ethan's answer was interesting. When asked why producing movies had lost its sheen, he said that it had become more of a grind and less fun.

Then when he announced *Drive-Away Dolls*, a road trip comedy caper, it was clear that he was ready to have some fun again. It's hinted that it could be the first of a queer trilogy. *Drive-Away Dolls* looks Thelma and Louise- esque in its trailer. Jamie played by Margaret Qualley has suffered a bad break-up and her friend Marian played by Geraldine Vishwanathan needs a vacation desperately. Both thirsty for a change of scene head off on a road trip to Tallahassee. They rent a car which carries a suitcase that's not theirs (of course). As they run for their lives from a bunch of twitty goons who are after the suitcase, the film promises one hell of a road trip. Then there's the stellar supporting cast of Matt Damon and Pedro Pascal.

Ethan has written the film with his wife Tricia Cooke and directed it. There is as much panic among fans as there must have been when The Beatles split up and John and Yoko went off to make an album. Have they split forever? Will the music ever sound as good? With the Coen brothers, the answers to a real split are vague as *Reuters* keeps picking up news snippets that they will be reuniting soon. Judging from their personal interviews, they are still spending summers together as a family. Phew.

'Challengers' – Luca Guadagnino

Luca Guadagnino has wedged himself gently but firmly into cinema history with his film *Call Me by Your Name*. The film starring Timothy Chalamet was a slow dance that haunted audiences. *Suspiria*, his horror film with Tilda Swinton, and *Bones and All*, a love story that explores the prickly theme of cannibalism, followed. Luca doesn't pick easy stories to tell. This year he brings to the theatres *Challengers*, a love triangle set in the hyper-kinetic world of tennis. Sports films are usually doomed by their trajectory; they keep getting made but they are mostly predictable – intense training, exultant winning, nasty injury, epic failure, roaring redemption. Sports by nature is unforgiving, stretching the mind with the body, testing brutally the player's endurance and focus but when you throw in some jealousy into the game, it could soar higher.

Challengers has the sleek Zendaya whose role as Rue in the series *Euphoria* remains transcendental. Here, she plays Tashi alongside Josh O'Connor as Patrick and Mike Faist as Art. All three are grand slam players who become messily entangled. Tashi whom both the men desire and admire from first sight on court dates one but marries the other. She gets injured and drops out of the game, becomes her husband's coach. When his career nosedives she signs him up to play against the ex-boyfriend. It's a messy reunion and reeks of sensuality, jealousy and strife. The film feels more like a complex drama than just a sports film,

Viduthalai Part 2 -Vetrimaaran

Vetrimaaran said in an interview that he sees a future for Tamil cinema where 10 to 15 big heroes will continue to make their films with a clutch of directors for large-scale theatrical releases, while he and his tribe will keep telling their stories independent of big heroes or its related machinery, and find ways to exhibit them. It is evident today that big hero films draw audiences to theatres, and scale matters more than story. So in a milieu where what we watch watches us, and content is pushed to viewers through all possible platforms, Vetrimaaran doesn't look like he wants to push anything but his own limits as a filmmaker. His human dramas have made the common man's story commercially viable. *Viduthalai Part 1*, which released last year, with comedian Soori doing the flip as the protagonist Kumaresan, is the story of an idealistic rookie cop stationed in a remote hill station. After a terrorist train blast, the insurgents are still at large.

The film follows Kumaresan, an idealist who bears witness to the happenings around him and starts waking up to its harsh realities. He sees that caste politics doesn't escape the police force and kindness or humanitarianism are not at its heart. Instead, it's bigotry and pettiness. A run-in with the wanted rebel leader, 'Vathiyaar' (Teacher) played by Vijay Sethupathi, who is trying to set the past and present oppressions right from behind the scenes makes Kumaresan question more of his own core beliefs. *Viduthalai Part 1* was a tad long but superb in its execution and emotion, leaving one wanting to know what comes next. *Viduthalai Part 2* which releases this year is said to be in parts about Vathiyaar's backstory. It's all a bit hush-hush but none of the intrigue ever goes to waste with Vetrimaaran's films.

The writer is a cinematographer who works in the Indian film industry

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Stars are the universe's engines, producing warmth, light, and the chemical elements that will make more stars, planets, and life. A quiz on stars

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

In 1957, the B2FH paper was published — so named based on the initials of its authors. Its title was 'Synthesis of the Elements in Stars', and provided some of the first data to support stellar nucleosynthesis: that nuclear fusion inside stars produces chemical elements. Name the first author of this paper.

QUESTION 2

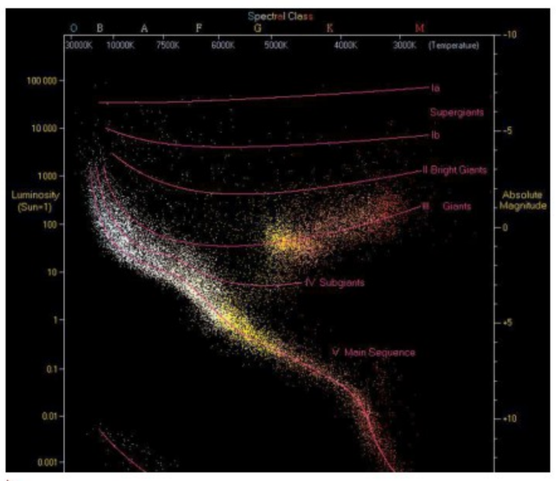
Stars, like the Sun, host nuclear fusion reactions that each release more energy than they consume. If an atom's nucleus is bound together with some energy, and if it's fused with another similar nucleus to produce a third nucleus that requires less binding energy, the 'excess' is released in the reaction. Name the element on the Periodic Table whose nucleus is the lightest for which fusion releases less energy than it consumes.

QUESTION 3

Scientists have hypothesised that stars have two main fusion reactions by which they convert hydrogen to helium — the start of stellar nucleosynthesis. Of these, the proton-proton cycle starts at around 4 million K and the ___ cycle, at around 15 million K. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

A star also produces elements when it 'dies'. In this process, the star's core, which no longer has fuel to fuse, starts to collapse rapidly under the weight of its own gravity while its outer layers are blown away. This blow-away pushes a large number of neutrons through its surroundings, which smash into atoms and produce roughly half of all elements in the universe heavier than iron. What is this process called?



Visual question:

This image shows a _____-_____ diagram, an important way to understand stars' evolution, and their ability to synthesise various elements. Fill in the blanks. CC BY-SA 2.5

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The three periods of the history of the German Empire. **Ans: German Reich, Weimar Republic, Nazi Germany**

2. This actor is known for films like *His Girl Friday* and *The Philadelphia Story*. **Ans: Cary Grant**

3. Peter Mark Roget is known for publishing this English-language synonym dictionary. **Ans: Roget's Thesaurus**

4. This man was among the three members of the Great Triumvirate along with Henry Clay and John C. Calhoun. **Ans: Daniel Webster**

5. Willie O'Ree's debut is known for being a milestone in the hockey league. **Ans: He was the first Black player in the National Hockey League**

Visual: Name the creator, and both characters in the image. **Ans: A.A. Milne; Winnie-the-Pooh and Christopher Robin**

Early Birds: Sumeet Parmar| K. N. Viswanathan| Akshansh Thakur| Aaryaman Thakur| Sunil Kannada

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Mr. S. U. N. RadhaKrishna, Malkajgiri, Hyderabad wants to know whether 'gentlewoman' is the opposite of 'gentleman'."

" 'A gentleman' is 'a man who is polite and shows consideration for the feelings of other people, one who always acts in an honourable way'. 'Gentlewoman' was once used of a woman with similar qualities, this word has been replaced by 'lady'. When we address a gathering of men and women, we begin with 'Ladies and gentlemen'. We do it out of politeness. Even though it would be truthful, we should not say 'Ladies and gentlemen and others'. If you did, you won't be considered a gentleman/lady!"

"Mr. K. V. Rao, SBH, Rajendanagar, Hyderabad, says that the word 'non-vegetarian' gives the impression that non-vegetarians don't eat vegetables at all and hence we should have another word to convey that non-vegetarians eat both vegetables and meat'."

"In Britain, as in the west in general, almost everybody eats meat, the odd person is the one who doesn't eat meat. This person is called a vegetarian. In English, the word 'non-vegetarian' doesn't exist. In India, we use this word as we have a lot of vegetarians and we want to distinguish the one from the other. Vegetarians in India do not eat meat, fish or eggs. In Britain, a vegetarian is one who doesn't eat meat. He may eat fish and eggs. A 'vegan' is one who is a strict vegetarian. A vegan is one 'who does not eat meat, fish, eggs or cheese or drink milk'. A vegan won't use animal products like silk. leather. The 'e' in 'vegan' is pronounced like the "ee" in 'feel', 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'India'; 'g' is pronounced like the 'g' in 'give'. The stress is on the first syllable."

"Mr. H, R. Chawla, Motia Khas, New Delhi, wants to know the meaning of 'charlatan'."

"A charlatan is a 'person who deceives others by falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill, specially in medicine'.

Don't go to him. He's a charlatan.

It's from Italian 'ciarlare', 'to prate, to chatter, to babble'. The 'ch' is pronounced 'sh' as in 'shall'. The first 'a' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'glass', the other two like the 'a' in India'. The stress is on the first syllable."

"Ms. Suananda Datta, Shillong, wants to know the meaning of 'The coast is clear'."

"It means that there is no danger of being seen or caught. It was originally a term used by smugglers. They looked around to see if there were coastguards. When they were sure that there were none, they said, 'The coast is clear'.

When the coast was clear, she went into the manager's room and took away some important files.

The idiom is generally limited to contexts implying some wrongdoing."

Published in The Hindu on October 9, 1990.

Word of the day

Nonplussed:

filled with bewilderment

Synonyms: puzzled, at a loss

Usage: *Both of us were nonplussed by such an odd question.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/nonplussedpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /nɒn'plʌst/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

High Court restrains BDA, govt. from initiating site allotment at Shivaram Karanth Layout

It directs BDA to put an additional lock on the room in which the apex court-appointed panel has kept its records without transferring them to the authority contrary to the Supreme Court's orders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has directed the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) to maintain *status quo*, as on Thursday , on all aspects, including the initiation of the process for allotment of sites, in Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout till further orders from the court.

However, the court permitted the BDA to undertake the ongoing works related to development of the layout.

"The BDA or the State government should not issue any notification calling for applications for allotment of sites in the layout without the leave of the court. The order of *status quo* would not mean that the activities of the development of the layout are to be put on hold. Those activities of development shall go on, which shall remain subject to the result of the present proceedings," the court observed.

A special Division Bench comprising Justice Krishna S. Dixit and Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order while hearing the cases, related to the layout formation, as the Supreme Court on December 12, 2023, had asked the High Court to examine issues based on the reports submitted by a three-member committee appointed by the apex court way back in 2020.

A file photo of Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout near Medi Agrahara in Bengaluru.

Fix one more lock

Meanwhile, the Bench directed the BDA to fix an additional lock on the room, situated within the BDA's office in which records of the committee's reports and documents are kept under lock and key of the committee, tenure of which ended on December 31, 2023. The Bench pointed out that the action of the committee in not transferring the records to the BDA was contrary to the apex court's directions.

The Bench noted that the committee members differed in their views on the continuation of the work of the committee and submitted their views in this regard to the apex court.

The committee's chairman, A.V. Chandrashekar, who is a retired judge of the High Court, was of the view that the committee had completed the tasks assigned to it and there was no need to continue it. However, the two members, Jayakar Jerome (retired Commissioner of the BDA) and S.T. Ramesh, (a retired Director-General and Inspector-General of Police) wanted the committee to continue for six more months to oversee the site allotment process.

Noticing that the apex court had directed that all the physical records would have to be transferred to the BDA after storing them in electronic format, the Bench pointed out that the BDA had written to the committee to hand over the documents but it did not do so and had kept all the records under its lock and key.

Though the committee has ceased to exist now, it would be open to its members, either individually or collectively to furnish or transmit any information, if they so desire, to the R-G, the Bench said while adjourning further hearing.

High Court refuses to impose a blanket ban on hoardings in city for now

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Refusing to issue direction for a blanket ban on erecting hoardings across the city for now, the High Court of Karnataka on Thursday said it would examine this plea during the next date of hearing and would not hesitate to impose an exemplary cost on those who have put up hoardings and banners *sans* permission, based on the response from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Prasanna B. Varale and Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order while hearing PIL petitions, through which the court has been monitoring the BBMP's actions against illegal advertisement hoardings, banners, etc.

'Without permission'

Earlier, advocates for the petitioners pointed out that a large number of hoardings and banners were being erected without obtaining permission from the BBMP and sought a direction prohibiting the putting up of hoardings and banners. However, the court said the petitioners have not placed any materials to show that hoardings and banners, which they referred to in their statement, were put up without obtaining BBMP's permission.

While directing the BBMP to respond to the allegations made by the petitioners, the Bench made it clear that its earlier direction for the State government and the BBMP to deposit ₹50 each for every illegal hoarding in the city is in force and it would examine this aspect based on the response of the civic agency to the allegations made by the petitioners.

Bypoll to Council from Bengaluru Teachers' constituency on Feb. 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Byelection to the Legislative Council from the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency is slated to be held on February 16 and the last date to submit form 19 application is January 20, said District Election Officer and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath.

A meeting was held on Thursday to discuss preparations for the byelection. There will be 34 polling booths in the 28 Assembly constituencies in the city. The model code of conduct has come into force from January 16. The last date to file nominations is January 30 and they will be scrutinised on January 31. Candidates can withdraw from the fray before February 2. Polling will be held between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The byelection was necessitated due to the resignation of Puttanna, who quit the BJP and joined the Congress during the Assembly elections last year. According to the election commission, the total number of voters in the final list is 16,063, of which 10,106 are female, 5,592 are male and five are transgender persons.

149 new COVID cases

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka on Thursday reported 149 new COVID-19 cases and one death. A 60-year-old male from Chickballapur, who was diagnosed with ILI, died in a government hospital on Thursday.

With this, the total number of deaths reported since December 15 touched 32. With 151 recoveries in the last 24 hours, the number of active cases reduced to 669. Of these, 30 are being treated in hospitals, including five in ICUs and three on ventilators.

As many as 7,329 tests were done in the last 24 hours, including 6,314 RT-PCR tests. With this, the day's test positivity rate stood at 2.03%.

BUSINESS CONNECT

A Business Initiative

Bank of Maharashtra Q3 results: Net profit rises 34% at Rs 1,036 crore

The Pune-based lender had posted a net profit of Rs 775 crore in the same quarter a year ago. Its total income increased to Rs 5,851 crore during the quarter under review against Rs 4,770 crore in the same period last year. Shri A S Rajeev, MD & CEO, BOM said," The net interest income (NII) grew by 24.56 per cent to Rs 2,466 crore against Rs 1,980 crore in the year-ago period. The bank earned an interest income of Rs 5,171 crore during the quarter compared to Rs 4,129 crore a year ago." Shri Rajeev further said," Operating profit has shown a growth of 27.32 per cent to Rs 2,012 crore from Rs 1,580 crore in Q3 FY23. The bank was able to reduce gross non-performing assets (NPAs) to 2.04 per cent of the gross loans by the end of December 2023 from 2.94 per cent a year ago. Similarly, its net NPAs or bad loans came down to 0.22 per cent from 0.47 per cent at the end of the third quarter of the previous fiscal. Its provision coverage ratio improved to 98.40 per cent from 97.18 per cent at the end of December 2022. Net interest margin (NIM) of the bank rose to 3.95 per cent from 3.60 per cent in the same quarter a year ago." Going forward, Shri Rajeev said," The NIM is expected to be in the range of 3.75-4 per cent in the fourth quarter. The total Basel III Capital adequacy ratio stood at 16.85 per cent, with a Common Equity Tier 1 ratio of 11.56 per cent at the end of the December quarter."At this level of capital adequacy, he said," The bank may not be required to raise capital in the fourth quarter to fund its business growth." During the year, the bank has raised equity capital of Rs 1,000 crore and Tier II capital of Rs 774 crore. The bank expects credit growth of 20-21 per cent, while deposits are expected to grow at 13-14 per cent in the fourth quarter. The Current Account Savings Account (CASA) as a percentage of total deposits is around 50 per cent. The bank plans to open about 100 branches in the current quarter. As of December 2023, the bank has 2,401 branch network.

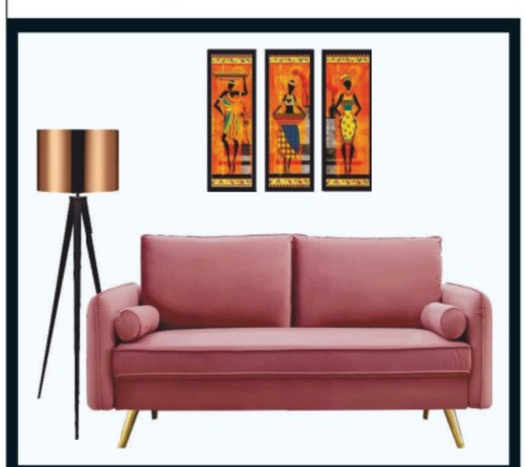
ADIGAS - 30 years of journey towards excellence.

The most trusted brand in Domestic and International tours "ADIGAS YATRA" successfully completes its 29th year and had a glory of 3 decades service in the Tourism Industry. Recently, the company released its 30th year's brochure possessed a new vision and lots of new programs with pocket friendly, go -easy tour policies which in other words makes your tour a memorable one. ADIGAS - commenced in the year 1994, in Hubli, today became the No.1 choice for the public when it comes to either Domestic tours or International Tours is the "Apple of the eye" of Mr. K. Nagaraj Adiga, the founder and CEO of ADIGAS GROUP , who took immense pain and struggled a lot to gain this popularity. The vision, commitment, adherence to commitment, Punctuality, understanding the ground situation of tourism spots, dedication to serving customers and 24/7 availability of dedicated staff in case of emergencies and when tourists need the most of their support and many more are the key factors for their success.

Sri Anand Mahotsav, a Life Changing Spiritual Discourse on Unleashing Inner Happiness, Peace & Joy by the World Renowned Spiritual Master, "SIDDHGURU" Sri Sidheshwar Brahmrishi Gurudev, Tirupati.

The Divine celebrations under the banner of Vishwa Dharma Chetana Manch took 1000's of devotees from the country and abroad through a journey of spiritual awakening and a life changing experience. Shri D. K. Shivkumar, Deputy Chief Minister, Karnataka Government graced the event with his presence as the Chief Guest. Siddhguru is an enlightened Guru who always stands with all in the times of their needs and sorrows. Upon Siddhguru's arrival at the venue, his birthday was celebrated with great faith by his devotees amidst singing of bhajans and chanting of Mantras. He said that the only way of achieving true happiness is by spreading happiness amongst the needy and empowering them. Adding to how to achieve happiness, he further said that sorrows are natural, crying is natural but to be happy is a choice that we need to exercise intentionally. When we work for the welfare of Humanity, happiness follows us naturally. Shri. D. K. Shivkumar, who graced the event also paid his heartfelt salutations and obeisance to Gurudev. The entire hall resounded with expressions of happiness and joy. Office bearers of the Ashram. The Ashram has pledged to donate 500 nos of prosthetic limbs, 500 dialysis and 500 units of blood as a way of celebrating Siddhguru's birthday. Siddhguru along with Shri D. K. Shiivkumar launched this humanitarian campaign by donating limbs to a few donees.

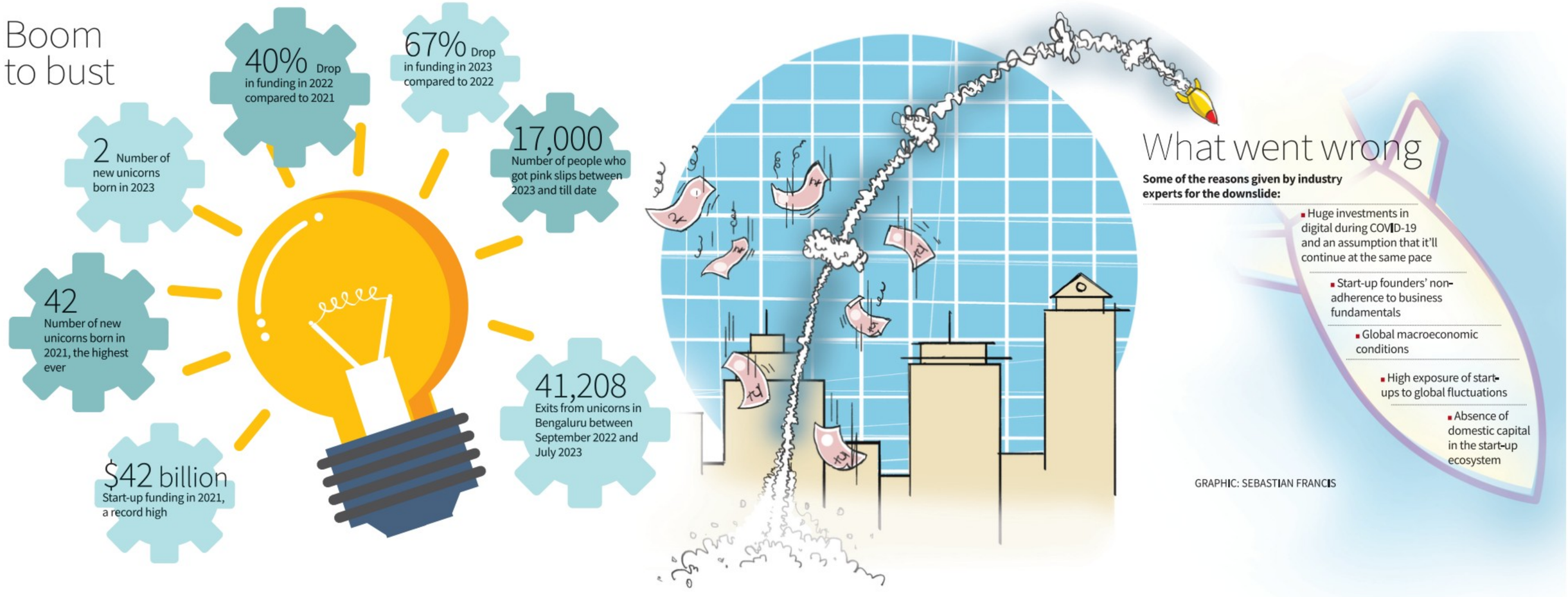
UPDATE YOUR HOME & INTERIORS!
FURNITURE FAIR


OPENS TODAY
DATE
19 | 20 | 21 | 22
JANUARY 2024
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM
VENUE
TRIPURA VASINI PALACE GROUNDS
NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU

• LIVING ROOM • DINING SET • BEDROOM
• OUTDOOR FURNITURE • LEATHER SOFAS
• BRASS & ARTIFACTS • HOME DECOR
• RECLINER SOFA SETS • CARPET & CUSHIONS
• MATTRESSES • CURTAINS
• WATER FOUNTAINS & MUCH MORE...
ENTRY FREE
+91 93425 77908
AN EVENT BY iads & events
exhibitions_iadsnevents
iadsnevents
LOCATE US
OPENS TODAY

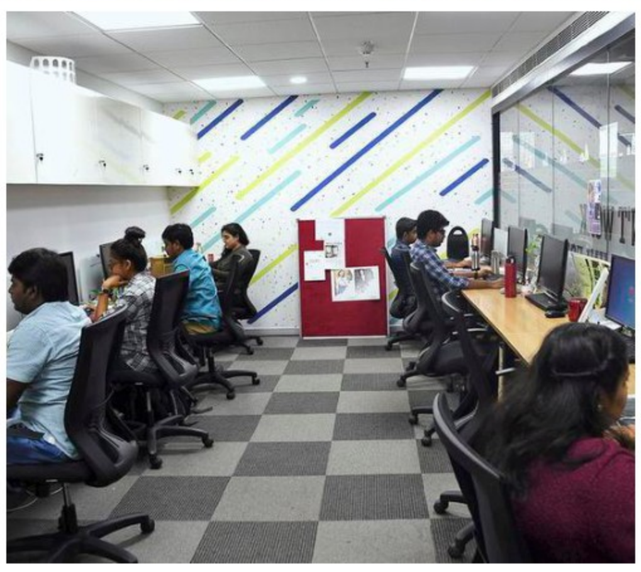
THAILAND SHOPPING FESTIVAL
INTERNATIONAL PAVILION
THAILAND BANGLADESH TURKEY KOREA
AFGHANISTAN IRAN NEPAL
LOCATE US
19 | 20 | 21 | 22 JANUARY 2024
10.00 AM TO 8.30 PM
TRIPURA VASINI PALACE GROUNDS
NEAR MEKHRI CIRCLE, BENGALURU
• Thailand Spa Oils • Herbal Products • Thailand Pearl Jewellery • Woman's Accessories
• Turkey Lights • Nepal Temple Vibes • Bangladesh Sarees • Children's Accessories
• Make Up Products • Artificial Flowers • Afghanistan Dryfruits • & Much More...

exhibitions_iadsnevents
iadsnevents
ALL MAJOR CREDIT / DEBIT CARD ACCEPTED
ENTRY FREE
+91 93425 77908


Boom to bust
40% Drop in funding in 2022 compared to 2021
67% Drop in funding in 2023 compared to 2022
2 Number of new unicorns born in 2023
17,000 Number of people who got pink slips between 2023 and till date
42 Number of new unicorns born in 2021, the highest ever
41,208 Exits from unicorns in Bengaluru between September 2022 and July 2023
$42 billion Start-up funding in 2021, a record high
What went wrong
Some of the reasons given by industry experts for the downslide:
Huge investments in digital during COVID-19 and an assumption that it'll continue at the same pace
Start-up founders' non-adherence to business fundamentals
Global macroeconomic conditions
High exposure of start-ups to global fluctuations
Absence of domestic capital in the start-up ecosystem
GRAPHIC: SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

Funding winter: City's start-ups on thin ice

Karnataka has again emerged as one of the best performers in the National Start-up Awards 2022 announced on January 16. However, Bengaluru, the capital of business ideas, has been reeling under a funding crunch triggered by global events. Experts tell **Shilpa Elizabeth** it could be a market correction, albeit a painful one



(Top) Drone-based geophysical surveys introduced by a start-up. (Above) Collaborative workspaces in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTOS

Vinay (name changed) was hired by an Indian unicorn soon after he finished his Master's degree in June 2022. The previous year had seen an unprecedented growth for several start-ups backed by an abundant flow of investor capital. When he joined the new workplace, traces of euphoria still lingered in the air.

Soon though, things took a tumble. Global economies slowed down. With the Russia-Ukraine and Israel-Palestine wars, the global supply chain and trade outlook started looking bleak. The tap dried up, and 2023 saw the lowest start-up funding in five years.

In September 2023, Vinay was laid off. "The manager cited revenue crunch as the reason. A few more were laid off along with me, and a few others quit later. News spread that the company was not doing well," he recollects. Vinay later joined another start-up, but he says things are not hunky-dory there either. "We recently had a town hall where the CEO announced that the company is struggling and we may not get any raises this year."

> Indian institutional market has to open up. Globally, one of the big sources of funding is pension. But Indian pension funds are not investing.
>
> **T.V. MOHANDAS PAI**
> Chairman, 3One4 Capital

Vinay is one among the thousands in India who got laid off in 2023 after a severe funding winter left several companies high and dry. As per data from global start-up data platform Tracxn, tech companies in India saw funding to the tune of $8.3 billion in 2023, a 67% drop from the previous year. While experts differ on whether the dry period will continue or if the worst is behind us, there is a consensus on one thing – that a market correction is underway.

The great Indian start-up splurge

Start-up funding hit a record of $42 billion in 2021. High on the venture money, several start-ups hired in significant numbers; they went on acquisition sprees and splurged on marketing. Valuation numbers skyrocketed. The year saw the birth of 42 new unicorns in India, the highest ever. The list included names like Meesho, UpGrad, CRED, ShareChat, and BharatPe, among others.

Pranav (name changed), who joined a unicorn around that time, remembers how he was astounded to see the extravagance. "I heard the entire company took a trip to Thailand almost a year before I joined," he says. The start-up's valuation had hit $7.5 billion that year.

And then the bubble burst. In 2022, overall funding in the Indian start-up ecosystem came down to $25 billion, a 40% decrease compared to the previous year. Things got even worse in 2023.

"On one hand, there were the global macroeconomic conditions and difficult access to funds with slow economic growth. But the other factor was the huge investments in everything digital in COVID-19 times. The assumption was that it was going to continue at the same pace," says Sangeeta Gupta, senior vice-president and chief strategy officer at NASSCOM. But as people came back to the real world, there was an increased focus on the return on investments, and reassessments happened on the investments made. This impacted the potential acceleration in some markets, she says.

Lack of domestic capital

As much as the macroeconomic conditions and the start-up founders' non-adherence to business fundamentals contributed to the crisis, the absence of domestic capital in the Indian start-up ecosystem has only aggravated the situation.

Some of the biggest Limited Partners (LP) in the world are from the US, Canada, Singapore, and the Middle East. These include funds like the Alaska Permanent Fund, Ontario Teacher's Pension Plan, GIC and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority among others. VC firms raise money from such LPs, and consequently, the Indian start-up ecosystem is exposed to global fluctuations.

"The Indian institutional market has to open up for India to be a dominant player. Globally, one of the big sources of funding for technology, venture, and start-ups is pension. But Indian pension funds are not investing," notes T.V. Mohandas Pai, Chairman at 3One4 Capital and former Infosys board member. "The total money coming into the pension system is around ₹5 lakh crore. If ₹5,000 crore can be invested into ventures and start-ups, it would be a good start. But there is no such regulation, and hence they are not investing," says Pai.

"The Union Ministry of Finance is hostile to the tax issues of start-ups. The regulatory system is hostile. The latest regulations by RBI say banks and NBFCs cannot invest in Alternate Investment Funds (AIF). It is a very authoritarian, ill-advised circular," Pai says, not mincing words. The circular was issued last December to prevent questionable bank transfers, but he notes that when such blanket bans are imposed, the genuine players also get hurt in the process.

> The entire ecosystem needs to make sure that while there may be easy money available in a future cycle, you don't lose sight of the business fundamentals.
>
> **SANGEETA GUPTA**
> Senior vice-president and chief strategy officer at NASSCOM

Layoffs, loud and silent

A major repercussion of the funding winter has been mass layoffs. According to data from the international *layoffs.fyi*, tech companies gave the pink slip to around 17,000 people in India from 2023 to date.

Suresh Bhagavatula, professor at the Indian Institute of Management - Bangalore, notes that the availability of easy money in 2021 also created a salary bubble for talent: "I heard some insane stories of how start-ups recklessly sought talent at any cost, bumping up the remunerations. Now, these start-ups are trying to rectify the situation."

Not all layoffs have been explicit, says Pranav who quit the unicorn and joined another start-up in 2023. "I have been seeing a trend of 'silent layoffs.' Instead of directly laying people off, companies would give them lower ratings, nudging them to leave." According to data from a study conducted by market intelligence technology company Private Circle, between September 2022 and July 2023, up to 111 Indian unicorns witnessed an attrition rate of 4.72%. Their data also showed that in Bengaluru alone, 41,208 employees exited the unicorns in the same period.

"The other part of this is that companies are not spending a lot of time on retaining talent unless they are exceptional. Earlier, there was an option of negotiating. You could take an offer letter to your employer and ask if they were ready to match it. That has reduced," says Pranav.

Cautious investor

One of the clear outcomes of the churn is the decreased investor confidence in unicorns and late-stage start-ups that have been chasing growth without paying attention to business models or profitability. "With access to easy money, start-ups pursued vanity metrics and the elusive 'network effects', disregarding the costs and profitability. This, in turn, could have led to a decreased confidence among the investors that these ventures are unlikely to survive without continuous capital infusion," says Prof. Bhagavatula. "Furthermore, the absence of mergers and acquisitions coupled with the poor performance of listed start-ups does not seem to give any exit options for investors, leading to this winter," he adds.

If the investments were earlier heavily skewed towards unicorns, there is investor interest and activity in early-stage start-ups lately. The pace, however, is still slow. "There is enough dry powder available with VCs. But earlier, any start-up with a reasonable average idea could raise money. Now the bar has been raised," says Madan Padaki, President at The Indus Entrepreneurs - Bangalore. He feels that cautiousness is good as it pushes start-ups to think more about revenue models, profitability, and sustainability.

Frugal, profitable

Within the start-ups too, similar sentiments echo. "There was a point when so much money was being pumped in that it was becoming unrealistic what companies were doing with it. Companies thought the tailwinds of the pandemic were never going to go away," says Pranav, who holds shares of the unicorn he used to work at. When the company valuation more than doubled in 2021, the value of his shares went up by 2.5x.

As the funding winter set in, several start-ups, including Byju's, Ola, Udaan, Swiggy (later marked up by 9%), PharmEasy, Pine Labs and Oyo, were marked down. The value of Pranav's stocks has also fallen with the news of an impending down round of his former employer.

"There's a higher focus among companies now on being frugal. For example, earlier for long travel we were allowed business class. That's not the case anymore. There is a stronger focus on driving more organic business leads and a higher focus on efficiency," he says.

Marketing spend has been significantly reduced. Several jobs, especially related to content and design, are being moved from the West to India. "Earlier companies thought it was important to have a presence in the West as part of the market expansion. There are still field roles in those regions. But content and design jobs are coming back to India, and that alone helps companies save ₹50-60 lakh. More stable people, not necessarily from the founding team, are being hired to head start-ups now; no more 'showy' CEOS," says Pranav.

Learning from a crisis

Bengaluru, being the start-up capital and Silicon Valley of India, has been impacted significantly due to the funding crunch. According to the Karnataka Mid-Year Review of State Finances 2023-24, the start-up funding in the State dropped by a whopping 80% in 2023 compared to the previous year.

Priyank Kharge, Karnataka's IT-BT Minister, says since November, the government has been engaging with the VCs in a first-of-its-kind move. "They are evolving a blueprint for the government to understand how we can help start-ups add more value," says Kharge, who swiftly clarifies that he is not referring to the 'valuation game.' "One of the biggest reasons for this venture winter is the valuation game that people have been playing. Once the blueprint is ready, we will reach out to the start-ups," he says.

According to him, the government is also coming up with a framework that would allow fewer start-ups to fail. Under its ELEVATE programme, the State government gives a one-time grant of up to ₹50 lakh to early-stage start-ups. Under preferential market access, the government aims to promote public procurement from start-ups.

Padaki notes that there is also a need to crack financing for start-ups at a structural level, as many banks still hesitate to provide collateral-free loans to start-ups. Above all, it's important to codify the lessons from this crisis so that it can be averted in the future, he says.

NASSCOM's Gupta agrees. "The entire ecosystem needs to make sure that while there may be easy money available in a future cycle, you don't lose sight of the business fundamentals," he says. "It doesn't mean you don't raise VC money or spend on marketing. It's about keeping in mind the right ratios and balances, thinking about your growth outcomes, planning for your talent capacity, and preparing for a rainy day because these cycles will become even shorter."

Striking a hit combination

Kannada filmmaker Tharun Sudhir talks about making a social drama with a big star, the power of old-school commercial entertainers, and the trick behind satisfying fans as well as critics

Write call Filmmaker Thaun Sudhir (below left); scenes from *Kaatera*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

Kannada star Darshan began 2023 with a dud, but ended the year with a bang. After featuring in a templated and dull commercial pot-boiler in *Kranti*, he sprung back to form in the old-school yet entertaining social drama *Kaatera*. Released on the last Friday of 2023, the film left the actor's fans overjoyed, while critics and neutral audiences found *Kaatera* to be an engaging and "different" Darshan movie. The film's humungous success has firmly signalled the arrival of a quality commercial filmmaker in Tharun Sudhir.

Tharun's previous film, *Roberrt*, also starring Darshan, was a blockbuster. With two hit ventures, the duo has now emerged as a combination to watch out for in the Kannada film industry. While Darshan trusts Tharun's instincts, the director offers the star enough room to shine with scenes that do justice to his talent.

So, what was missing in Darshan's previous films? "Darshan sir is good at action sequences. He has all the qualities to be a 'mass' hero. However, I felt filmmakers, in recent times, fell short in utilising his performing abilities," says Tharun.

"To be honest, even in *Roberrt*, I was nervous to experiment because I was doing a film with a huge star for the first time; yet, I had scenes that brought out the actor in him. People were moved by his portrayal of a person with stammering issues. They praised his chemistry with the child actor in the movie. This response from fans encouraged me to write *Kaatera's* script, which is content-oriented and focuses on Darshan's performing skills." Having amassed over ₹100 crore at the box office, *Kaatera* is in no mood to stop, reminding people of Darshan's previous all-time blockbusters such as *Sarathi* and *Krantiveera Sangoli Rayanna*. Currently enjoying the third week of its release, the film continues to run to packed houses in Karnataka. Exhibitors are celebrating the revival of movie halls in cities as well. Fans and the family crowd are pulling up to theatres in tractors and bullock carts in rural areas of the state.

"Darshan sir has got a loyal fan base. Even during his low phases, they have firmly stood by him. But apart from that, general cinema-goers have found the film engaging," reasons Tharun.

Kaatera is set in the 1970s, and deals with subjects such as land reforms and caste discrimination, as the film blends its message well with entertainment. "We wanted to make an intense film. If you have observed, we have cut down on the melodrama. The film has just three action sequences. We wanted the drama and the dialogues from writer Maasthi Upparahalli to come across as real as possible," explains Tharun.

The director also credits his co-writer, Jadesh K Hampi, for contributing to a tight script. "I must thank Jadesh for investing his time and creativity in this project. He is a filmmaker himself, yet he decided to work as a writer for this movie. Kannada cinema needs more such writers, and we must pay them well to encourage them to remain in the profession. The biggest advantage of a writer is that he or she helps the director to plan his or her film better. A writer hastens the filmmaking process because the director can focus completely on his role," he says.

Tharun feels the film's success shows the power of old-school commercial entertainers. "Of course, you have to direct such stories with a modern touch. Cinema has always proven the adage, 'old is gold'. We can never ignore our roots, or the traditional form of commercial cinema," he signs off.

> ***The film has just three action sequences. We wanted the drama and the dialogues from writer Maasthi Upparahalli to come across as real as possible***
>
> **THARUN SUDHIR**
> Filmmaker

Back to the future Singer Tarana Komorebi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sci-fi dreams meet cathartic melodies

Komorebi talks about her latest album *The Fall* and her upcoming multi-city tour

Praveen Sudevan
praveen.s@thehindu.co.in

Tarana Komorebi's (popularly known as Komorebi) latest album, *The Fall*, is her dream project in multiple ways. For one, it draws on her childhood ideas of a futuristic character. It realises a concept she imagined in her early 20s. It is an ambitious album with surreal electronic sounds and sci-fi visuals made with Unreal Engine, a 3D game creation platform.
But *dream* is the operative word of Komorebi's creation mainly because she has tried to build a world that seems removed from reality yet somehow rooted in it.

The protagonist of *The Fall*, Kiane, is a space traveller inhabiting a universe different from ours. She is a mix of several female characters from pop culture, like Aloy from the game *Horizon Zero Dawn* and Beatrix Kiddo from Quentin Tarantino's *Kill Bill*. She encapsulates the complexity and strength found in these characters. Yet there is also a bit of Tarana in Kiane.

"The inspiration behind my music lies in my life experiences. In translating these experiences into art, I created a fictional character and crafted a unique narrative that mirrors, yet diverges from my journey. This character, though similar to mine, embarks on a distinct path of self-discovery and growth," she says over a call from New Delhi, where she is getting ready for a multi-city tour, beginning in Bengaluru on January 19.

"Recently, after a month away from playing and navigating life, I've discovered the healing nature of performing music. The experience brings me a deep sense of well-being and excitement. It's both thrilling and comforting for me."

The album is not just about the music; it's a story told through sounds and images. In fact, the music video for 'I Grew Up' has over 25 visual credits, including VFX, CG, animation, and more. "We are trying to bring the album to life through a combination of visuals and carefully crafted costumes. We're delving into stage design and production to enhance the overall atmosphere."

Dual identity

In the age of curated feeds and filtered realities, Komorebi prompts a discussion of artistic identity. She navigates the social media landscape, crafting a distinct online persona that pulsates with neon dreams and sci-fi narratives.

Beneath the digital facade lies a complex truth: Komorebi is not just an online persona but a deliberate choice, a facet of the multifaceted Tarana. This duality, she confesses, is both liberating and fraught with tension. The online and offline stage becomes a canvas where she can paint with vibrant self-expression, shedding societal expectations and embracing performative fantasy. Yet, the spotlight casts harsh shadows, raising the question of authenticity in a world obsessed with curated perfection. There are always the questions of 'who we are?' and 'who we want to be?'

These questions resonate deeply with Komorebi, adding complexity to her artistic journey. In her songs, she does not shy away from this duality; she embraces it.

Collaborations and music style

"Genres are more like guidelines than walls," says Komorebi. While electronic beats form the foundation, her unique vocal style and recurring themes bind her sonic universe. Influences range from the synth-laden choruses of the 80s and 90s to the pulsating rhythms of contemporary trip-hop, pop, and alternative.

Beneath the vibrant melodies lies a melancholic thread, reflecting Komorebi's personal experiences with family, love, and the struggles that have shaped her. This sombreness, mirrored in Kiane's story, is not an indulgence in despair; it's a bittersweet ballad that carries an undercurrent of hope.

The Fall features collaborations with indie stars, including Easy Wanderlings lending flute and harmonies, Warren Mendonsa on electric guitar, and Dhruv Visvanath on acoustic. Collaboration, she reckons, serves as a vital counterpoint to the potential isolation of creative exploration. "Spending too much time in your own head can lead to myopia," She admits, "A collaborator brings a refreshing energy that can broaden the boundaries of the canvas." This is not a collision but a deliberate infusion of perspectives. It is not about adding noise but weaving another thread into the album's tapestry to enrich its texture.

In a world that often feels isolating, Komorebi wants her music to remind us that we are not alone. "The ultimate joy for an artist is when a listener connects deeply with a song, expressing that it helped them navigate their struggles," she says, "Receiving messages from people who share that my music has positively impacted their lives is a profound experience. It highlights the unique ability of music to touch lives."

Komorebi's multi-city tour begins from January 19 in Bengaluru at Fandom at Gilly's Redefined.s Tickets on insider.in

An evening of Mozart

Enjoy an evening of classical music with some of Mozart's most notable pieces presented by the Bangalore School of Music

Hitting the high notes Bengt Forsberg and Maria Forsström. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

The Bangalore School of Music will be presenting Mozart's *The Requiem*, in association with Evolve Back Resorts, at Chowdaiah Memorial Hall. *The Requiem* is a choral masterpiece composed by Mozart in 1791, though it remained unfinished at the time of his death in December that year.

A requiem is any music that accompanies the final mass for the deceased and this particular piece by the legendary composer was written for a mixed vocal choir and orchestra.

"*The Requiem* reflects the many aspects of death in all its terrifying glory with dramatic parts interspersed with more soothing ones," says Jonas Olsson, who will be conducting the choir. "For us, it was a natural choice as it is one of works that a choir with any sense of pride should perform."

Joining the Bangalore School of Music on this musical endeavour are two chamber musicians from Europe – Grammy Award winning pianist Bengt Forsberg and conductor Maria Forsström.

According to Jonas, *The Requiem* is an "accessible" piece of music for both the audience and the choir. "You can relate to it emotionally even if you don't have any prior musical background. This is music that speaks more to your heart than to your brain, So for us, that was an important factor in the choice of music."

Audiences will witness a 45-member choir together with a 20-member orchestra, led by Bengt and Maria.

On January 19 from 7.30-9 pm at Chowdiah Memorial Hall. Tickets starting from ₹299 are on insider.in

STEPOUT

Poetic start

Atta Galatta presents Let Poetry Be, an evening of English poetry open mic. This month's theme is "Beginnings" and will be hosted by Srividya Srinivasan. Srividya is an entrepreneur, author, poet, podcaster, film maker, cinephile, actress and activist. She has a repertoire of nearly 150 poems and has shared her poetry at the Bangalore Poetry Festival and at an open mic event in London.
On January 19, 5pm at Atta Galatta.

Welcome Veganuary

To celebrate Veganuary, Anand Sweets has launched a range of vegan *mithai*. These new additions include *badam burfi, ompudi, kaju rolls, pista launj* to name a few.
At all Anand Sweets outlets and online via Swiggy/Zomato.

ಇಂಡಿಯನ್ ಹಾತ್ ಫೆಸ್ಟಿವಲ್
Indian Haat Festival
A Shopping Fest
Arts, Crafts and Handlooms Exhibition
LAST 3 DAYS
12th to 21st
January 2024
Timings :
11:00 AM to 7:00 PM
10 Days Exhibition | Entry Free
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
Kumara Krupa Road, Near Shivananda Circle
Bengaluru - 560 001.
100+ Stalls | Live Performance | 10 Days Exhibition | Entry Free
Handicrafts | Jewellers | Clothings | Fashion Accessories | Home Decore & More
For Details Contact: 6364685716 / 9036658774

State to recommend to Centre to amend Constitution for allowing internal quota among SC communities

Social Welfare Minister says States cannot tinker with quota matrix unless Article 341 (3) is inserted through an amendment; Article 341 (1) and (2) pertain to inclusion or exclusion of any caste in SC list

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday decided to recommend to the Centre to insert Article 341 (3) to the Constitution, which will enable States to provide internal reservation among Scheduled Castes. This is seen as a significant political move ahead of Lok Sabha elections that could potentially ruffle feathers among those seeking internal reservation in quota matrix.

Article 341 (1) and (2) pertain to inclusion or exclusion of any caste to the SC list. The government is seeking inclusion of another clause to allow internal reservation among SCs.

In the run-up to the State Assembly election in 2023, Congress had promised to place before the Assembly the A.J. Sadashiva Commission report on internal reservation, which was submitted to the government in 2012.

However, the BJP government, during its last days in power, had closed the commission report and recommended internal reservation under four categories. Of the 17 % reservation for SCs, the BJP government had approved 6 % to SC (Left), 5.5 % for SC Right), 4.5 % for touchables (Banjara, Bhovi, Korcha, Korma and others) and 1 % for others.

Ministers Eshwar Khandre, K.H. Muniyappa, H.K. Patil, and H.C. Mahadevappa briefing presspersons after the Cabinet meeting in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Now, Congress government has refused to revisit the decision taken under Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government and instead put the ball in the Centre's court again.

Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa argued that States cannot tinker with reservation matrix unless Article 341 (3) inserted through an amendment. "We have recommended to the Centre to amend the article. Parliament is the supreme body," said Mr. Mahadevappa, who belongs to SC Right faction, in his Cabinet briefing here on Thursday.

The Minister said that the Cabinet sub-committee formed under the BJP government hurriedly gave a report following which the commission report was closed. "After we announced that the commission report would be tabled in the Assembly, the BJP government closed the report," he claimed. When asked what prevented the Congress government from revisiting the earlier cabinet decision, Dr. Mahadevappa said that the decision was taken after consulting advocate general. Asked if there was any legal impediment to revisit a previous cabinet decision, both Dr. Mahadevappa and Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil acknowledged that there were none.

Political ramifications

With the State government's decision, the more than two-decade-old demand for internal reservation, largely driven by SC Left factions, will now hinge on when the Parliament passes the amendment. The decision is expected to have political ramification as the SC Left castes are seen as supporting the BJP while the SC Right castes are seen as supporting Congress. By putting the ball in Centre's court, the Congress has not put pressure on BJP to act on the recommendation.

Underlining that States cannot act without an amendment, Dr. Mahadevappa also pointed to a Madras High Court order that there can be "no quota within a quota." A legal battle over the issue in Punjab has reached the Supreme Court and seven judge Bench has been constituted to decide on it. When asked if Congress was aware of these issues before making the pre-poll promise, the Minister said, "We are not against reservation. We have only recommended. There is no politics here."

Interestingly, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa, who belongs to SC Left faction, and is among those who sought internal reservation, welcomed the Cabinet decision. "There has been no injustice done to anyone. It has now shown that it can implement internal reservation if the Constitution is amended."

'Repeat of earlier move'

However, a former Minister in BJP government told *The Hindu* that the Congress government's decision is actually a repeat of what the BJP government had done. "States cannot provide internal reservation without the amendment. We had also written to the Centre on the same lines. The BJP government had decided to close Sadashiva Commission report since it became invalid after government accepted the Nagmohan Das Committee report to increase reservation for SCs and STs from 15 % and 3 % to 17 % and 7 % respectively," the ex-Minister said.

BJP terms Cabinet decision to put the ball in Centre's court as 'hoodwinking' oppressed sections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Opposition BJP has termed the State Cabinet's decision to put the ball of internal reservation in the court of the Union government as attempt to "hoodwink the oppressed communities."

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday, former Deputy Chief Minister and BJP's Dalit face Govind Karjol remarked that the Congress government should immediately issue a notification on introducing internal reservation if it had political will instead of escaping from the responsibility in the guise of forwarding a recommendation in this regard to the Centre.

Alleging that injustice has been meted out to SC Left (Madiga) by the stance of the Congress government, Mr. Karjol said the Congress government had made a pre-poll promise of introducing internal reservation.

He claimed that there was no need to amend Article 341 as Justice Arunkumar Mishra had already ruled that the State government had power to provide internal reservation. "Justice Mishra had said the State does not have power to either include new castes or remove the already existing castes from the list of SC/ST communities. However, he had also said that the issue should be referred to the larger bench of the Supreme Court. The Centre has already placed the issue before the larger bench of the Apex Court," he maintained.

Meanwhile, Union Minister of State for Social Justice and empowerment A. Narayanaswamy accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of trying to mislead people of the State through his stand on internal reservation.

Cabinet modifies policy on scrapping vehicles

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Modifying the policy on scrapping of registered vehicles in the State, the Karnataka Cabinet on Thursday approved revised rates of concession in motor vehicle tax against submission of certificate of deposit after scrapping old vehicles.

As much as 10% tax concessions will be given on all the construction equipment vehicles, including tractors.

Tax concession

The tax concession to be given for newly registered vehicles against submission of certificate of deposit for transport vehicles is

As much as 10% tax concessions will be given on all construction equipment vehicles, including tractors

10% tax concession on the life time tax (LTT) for newly registered transport vehicles, 10% tax concession given on the tax to be paid with in quarterly, yearly up to 8 years for newly registered transport vehicles and ₹50 tax concession to be given on autorickshaws.

The Cabinet also approved tax concession for new vehicles in two-wheeler and four-wheeler categories based on the exshowroom price of new vehicle.

Gruha Jyothi rules tweaked to help families using less than 48 units

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Decision entails provision of 10 additional units instead of 10% of average utilisation by LT2 consumers who use less than 48 units monthly

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to modify the June 5, 2023, order on Gruha Jyothi to provide relief to power consumers using less units monthly.

The decision entails provision of 10 additional units instead of 10% of average utilisation by LT2 consumers who use less than 48 units monthly. The decision was taken to enable poor families since additional 10 units on the average used units would be higher than 10%.

The Cabinet note said that poor families using 30 units would get just 33 units after 10 % calculation. In Bescom alone, as many as 69.73 lakh families are using less than 48 units, who will be benefitted with the decision.

This will cost an additional ₹33 crore to the exchequer. A total of 1.95 crore families across the State are using an average 53 units monthly.

Welfare board

To bring relief to drivers and cleaners in the transport sector, the Cabinet approved creation of Karnataka Motor Transport and other Allied Workers' Social Security and Welfare Board.

It is estimated that 83 % of the workers are in unorganised sector. To raise money to the board, the government has decided to re allocate tax resources from transport department. As per the proposal, the tax collected from infrastructure projects across Karnataka and a part of the equity invested in Bangalore Mass Rapid Transit Ltd.

The Cabinet decided to defer decisions on issues related to late payment surcharge to be paid by Power Company of Karnataka Ltd. (PCKL) and Escoms to Udupi Power Corporation Ltd. (UPCL).

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told presspersons after the Cabinet that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has suggested deferring decisions and obtain expert and legal advice on the issues.

They include payment of ₹1,348 crore to be paid by PCKL and Escoms to UPCL towards late payment surcharge and ₹ 1,061 crore to paid to UPCL by Escoms.

Basavanna is State's 'cultural leader'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka government has agreed to declare 12th century social reformer Basaveshwara (referred to as Basavanna) as Karnataka's "cultural leader."

This is for the first time that the State has declared anyone as a "cultural leader", said Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, who is also General Secretary of Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha.

He told presspersons after the Cabinet decision that Maharashtra has earlier declared Chatrapathi Shivaji as a "cultural leader."

The Minister said that the teachings of Basavanna and values on a casteless society is apt for the current society.

When asked if this decision was political and aimed at appeasing the Veerashaiva community (for whom Basavanna is an icon) just before elections, Mr. Khandre said, "This decision has no connection with Lok Sabha elections".

Earlier, in December the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha at its convention had resolved to ask the government to declare Basavanna as cultural leader of the State. The Mahasabha has thanked the government for taking the decision.

36 legislators, 39 party workers will be appointed as heads to boards and corporations: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 36 legislators and 39 party workers will be accommodated in the appointments to government-owned boards and corporations, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Thursday.

Speaking to reporters, he said, "The list of appointments to boards and corporations may be out any moment. Party leaders and workers have brought the party to power in the State and they will be rewarded suitably."

Totally, 75 legislators and party leaders would be appointed as heads to boards and corporations in the first phase.

The appointment would provide a major relief to leaders who have been sulking since the formation of the government.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar already held several rounds of talks on selection of candidates for various boards and corporations.

Committee meeting

"The Lok Sabha election committee meeting will be held on Friday at Indira Gandhi Bhavan. We had planned to hold the meeting in the afternoon but we postponed it to evening in view of Prime Minister's visit to the city," the KPCC chief said.

Asked if the list of candidates will be finalised on Friday, he said, "We will have the first round of meeting tomorrow. Jagadish Shettar and Laxman Savadi have also been invited to the meeting. District in-charge Ministers have collected opinions from all the constituencies and it will be discussed in tomorrow's meeting."

When asked about some Ministers showing reluctance to contest the upcoming general elections, he said, "If the party wants, everyone has to contest, whether it is me or anyone else."

BJP-JD(S) alliance

Replying to a query about the impact of the BJP-JD(S) alliance, he said, "It is their wish to join the NDA. The last time we joined hands with JD(S), we were hopeful of winning a lot of seats but ended up with one seat each. Let's wait and see, we are confident of winning 25 seats."

Blacklist firms that have failed to provide skill education: Minister

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cracking the whip on eight project implementing agencies (PIA) that have failed to provide skill education to candidates even after getting the financial aid from the State government under the Deen Dayal Grameen Kaushalya Yojana, Minister for Medical Education, Skill Development and Livelihood Sharan Prakash Patil has instructed officials to blacklist the companies and file criminal cases against them.

The Minister expressed displeasure over agencies that have failed to implement the government's scheme aimed at providing vocational training to those studying diploma, ITI and other job-oriented courses. He instructed officials to file criminal cases against them in the jurisdictional police stations during his meeting on Wednesday to review the progress of the National Rural Livelihood Mission.

The Minister also instructed officials to blacklist the errant PIAs and not issue tenders to such firms in the future.

He directed the officials to recover ₹74.65 crore with interest from the PIAs for violating rules of this scheme which is being implemented jointly by the Central and State governments to provide vocational training for candidates studying job-oriented courses in rural and urban areas.

Pulling up the officials over laxity in implementing the scheme, Mr. Patil warned of strict action against them.

Budget on February 16

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will present the State Budget on February 16. Minister H.K. Patil said the legislature session will take place from February 12 to 23.

GOVERNMENT OF PUNJAB
Department of Local Government
(World Bank-Goods/Services)

Reference No. N I T /S.E.(c)/03 Date 16.01.2024

Municipal Corporation, Amritsar Invite Bids from the eligible bidders for the following Project funded from World Bank:-

Sr. No.	Name of Work	Estimate Amount
1	Hardware & Equipment for revamping existing IT Infrastructure in Municipal Corporation, Amritsar (RFB No. IN-MCA-402228-GO-RFB)	Rs. 219.60 Lacs

Closing Date & Time : 16.02.2024 upto 02:00 PM
Pre-Bid Meeting : 22.01.2024 at 12:30 PM
Technical Bid Opening : 16.02.2024 upto 02:30 PM
For Detail log onto : https://eproc.punjab.gov.in
For Detail log onto : Any Corrigendum(s) to the tender notice shall be published on the above website only.

Superintending Engineer(c), Municipal Corporation Amritsar.

NA/12/21431/2023/31570

Government of Karnataka
(Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

EE/RWSS/Dvn/SMG/TE/JJM/Kppp-Proc/2023-24/2087 Date : 16.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp-procurement)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka and as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Rules 2000, tenders are invited to undertake the following works under Jal Jeevan Mission in the limits of Rural Drinking Water & Sanitation Division, Shivamogga. **Indent Nos: (1) 7512 (2) 7464.**
Tender details, conditions and corrigendum or changes are available in website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. Eligible bidders shall submit their bid and documents through above e-portal only. **Few conditions of the tender :** (1) The last date for receipt of tenders from contractors : **23.01.2024 at 5.30 P M.** (2) Date of opening of Double Cover Technical bid : **25.01.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (3) Date of opening of Double Cover Financial bid : **29.01.2024 at 11.30 A M.** (5) Specified time period for completion of works : **6 months.**

DIPR/SMG/No.83-01
zenkar/2023-24

sd/- Executive Engineer,
Rural Drinking Water and Sanitation Division, Shivamogga

Lal Bagh decks up for Republic Day flower show

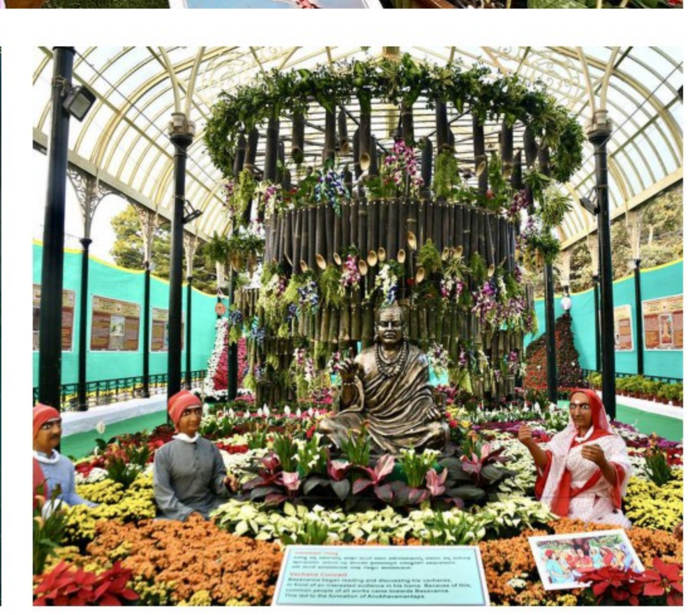
The Hindu Bureau

The Republic Day flower show that got underway on Thursday at Lal Bagh has for its theme the 12th century social reformer and poet Basaveshwara (also known as Basavanna) and other Vachana writers of the period.

Inaugurating the event, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that the Karnataka Cabinet had earlier on the same day approved recognising Basaveshwara, who fought for a casteless and egalitarian society, as the "Cultural Leader" of State.

The Chief Minister hoped the show would at once inspire people to remember the message of the reformer and motivate them to participate in environmental conservation efforts. The flower show, organised by the Horticulture Department, will be open to the public until January 28.

Photos by: Sudhakara Jain



Fusion music and dance festival at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan from January 20

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Infosys Foundation and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan are jointly organising a seven-day Fusion Music and Dance festival from January 20. As many as 75 eminent artists will be participating in this festival which will have 16 programmes with free entry.

The events that will feature during the seven days are:

Bagpiper concert
On January 20, there will be a Bagpipers concert by Kings Bagpipers-Jaipura, from 5 p.m., followed by Vadya Vaibhava by Sridhar Sagar on saxophone and team. The day's programme will end with a dance programme - Enchanting Encounter - Odissi-meets-Yakshagana led by Madhulitha Mohapatara's Nrityantar Dance Ensemble. On January 21, the programme will commence with Chakrafonics Trio by Praveen D. Rao and team, followed by a dance programme by Palimpsest by Madhu Natraj and Natya Stem Dance Kampni.

The programme on January 22 features Sand Melody by Sand artist Raghavendra Hegde and vocal support by Mouna Ramanchandra. Followed by a dance programme titled "Navaratri" by Sandhya Udupa and team.

On January 23, there will be Mystik Vibes featuring Matthias Schriefl' by Amith Nadig flute, Matthias Schriefl - Trumpet, Muthu Kumar tabla and team. A dance programme titled 'Sakhi' - Seeking the Friend Within by Chitra Arvind and Rhytmotion, a dance ensemble.

On January 24, the programme will commence with Harmonium and Accordion Fusion by Dr. Ravindra Katoti and team followed by a play By2Coffee, directed by Abhishek Iyengar. The January 25 programme features violin and piano - Lakkshya Quartet by K.J. Dilip and team. This will be followed by a dance programme titled 'saMyAna' - journey through Jayadeva's Geeta Govina, a showcasing of Astapadis through Kuchipudi, Odissi and Bharatanatyam by Srividya Angara, Gowri and Shubha Nagarajan and team.

On January 26, there will be Raag Rang Fusion Flute concert by Pravin Godkhindi.

Urgent need to inculcate soil restoration and climate-resilient practices: Report

'The soil degradation crisis has been plaguing India for the past several decades'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Firefly Life Sciences, a city-based company specialising in soil health and nutrition management, in a recent report, has emphasised the urgent need to inculcate soil restoration and climate resilient practices into the country's agricultural policy.

The report titled 'Soil Restoration and Climate Resilient Agricultural Frameworks to Safeguard India's Food Security' argues that soil restoration and climate resilience (SRCR) need to be put at the forefront of India's agricultural paradigm and policy.

"Soil is fundamental to all living organisms and therefore compromised soil will enfeeble all the organisms and interconnected ecosystems dependent on it. Restoring soil and inculcating climate resilience needs to combine traditional and contemporary knowledge and technologies to create robust agricultural practices that can face up to the rapidly growing environmental challenges," states the report.

The report also highlights the potential challenges that could arise in moving towards SRCR - namely, lack of knowledge and awareness, high initial costs, and market barrier. MURALITHARAN A.

The report also highlights the potential challenges that could arise in moving towards SRCR - namely, lack of knowledge and awareness, high initial costs, market barriers, cultural and social resistance and policy and regulations. Besides suggesting that they need to be considered and accounted for to allow a successful conceptualisation and execution of SRCR.

"The soil degradation crisis has been plaguing India for the past several decades. While the methods ushered in by the Green Revolution helped India attain food security, its excesses have emerged in the decades since. One of the major repercussions of this is soil degradation," said Nandita Abreo, founder and director, Firefly Life Sciences.

Ms. Abreo added that due to its weakened soil, India's agricultural production is especially vulnerable to climate change and that this can pose a severe threat to the country's future food security.

The report also said that true climate resilient farming must account for the trade-offs between the pillars of productivity, adaptation and climate mitigation, and strive to find a context-specific balance between these three core objectives of SRCR.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1974

State Fisheries Act to be Amended

Bangalore, Jan. 18: The Minister of State for Fisheries, Mr. K.T. Rathod told newsmen here to-day that the Government had proposed to amend the legislation concerning fisheries now in force in the State. He said that certain changes had become necessary in view of the several developmental schemes undertaken both for Inland and marine fisheries. A draft of the amending legislation was now being scrutinised by the Law Department and the bill would be finalised shortly. Mr. Rathod said that the Fisheries Board also decided that 50 trawers should be acquired by the Government of India for exploitation of marine fish wealth.

Lack of Money may affect work at P G Centre in Gulbarga

Dharwar, Jan. 18: Delay in the expeditious development of the post-graduate centre of the Karnataka University at Gulbarga appears to be inevitable due to financial stringency.

An indication to this effect was available during the visit of Karnataka's Education Minister. Mr. Mallikarjuna Swamy to Dharwar recently.

Miss. M. Jayalakshmmanni, the Vice Chancellor of the Karnataka University broached the subject of the free flow of financial assistance to the University to enable it to complete the work at the centre.

Any delay in the release of funds would only lead to the revision of the estimates due to the spiralling prices. The University Grants Commission had already released its contribution, it was pointed out.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

A market ahead of its times

The Devaraja Market was built in 1886 on the site of an existing weekly market during the regime of Chamaraja Wadiyar X. who ruled from 1868 to 1894.
It was a planned marketplace long before the idea of shopping plazas or malls emerged, in contrast to the typical bazaars that evolved in most towns and were common back then.

How the structure came to be

The Devaraja Market, aligned along the New Sayyaji Rao Road in the heart of Mysuru, has many layers of history. The road was laid after filling up a channel that was dug up during the period of Dewan Krishnacharya Poornaiah (1746-1812). The channel had been made in a bid to supply water to the wooden palace that existed in those days.

Braving multiple disasters

The market has been hit by multiple disasters over the decades. Raging fires have destroyed vast swathe of the structure between 1980 and 2000. The northern entrance collapsed in 2016. The video documenting the collapse - captured from a vantage point - went viral and led to speculation that the collapse was engineered to pave way for demolition.

The saga of a court battle

Mysuru City Corporation passed a resolution to demolish the Devaraja Market in 2011. The High Court dismissed a PIL to thwart the demolition of the market in August, 2023. But the demolition is something which will not happen overnight as the Government is cash-strapped to release funds for reconstruction of a new market.

Some successful restoration efforts

Conservationists argue that the dilapidated heritage market can be saved even now with some effort. They cite a few live examples from Mysuru itself to bolster their argument. For instance, the conservation of Radhakrishnan's Bungalow and the Oriental Research Institute. These two structures were restored by the University of Mysore.

A heritage market in Mysuru counts its days

Despite efforts by conservationists to save the iconic Devaraja Market of Mysuru, the courts have now cleared the decks for its demolition

R. Krishna Kumar
MYSURU

A slice of Mysuru which charmed generations of tourists and locals alike - being the single source for retail purchase of commodities for nearly 140 years - is on the brink disappearing from the city's landscape.

The future is grim with the political representatives and the Government supportive of its demolition, ostensibly in "public interest", while the litigants, who had approached the High Court to stall the Government move, have lost the legal battle though an appeal is pending before the Apex Court.

The Dufferin Clock Tower in the foreground and the facade of the Devaraja Market in the backdrop have dominated the cityscape of Mysuru for decades. SRIRAM M.A.

It stood tall

The historic Devaraja Market has brought together consumers, farmers and retailers since generations ever since it was established in 1880s. Though it faced myriad challenges that threatened its existence including multiple incidents of fire, the Devaraja Market withstood it all.

The iconic market was reflective of all that summed up the characteristics of Mysuru: sometimes noisy, colourful but also charming with an old world allure and dealing with traditional ingredients for which Mysuru is renowned: agarbathies or incense sticks, spices, flowers, garlands and piles of Kumkum stacked in a row and whose images dotted the guidebooks that listed Devaraja Market as a "must visit" when in Mysuru.

Planned market

It is not for sentimental reasons alone that there is opposition to the proposed demolition of the heritage market. It has a slice of Mysuru's history embedded to it and is among the nearly 140 notified heritage structures. What set apart Devaraja Market from the rest is that it was planned way back in 1886 unlike the typical bazaars that evolve in most towns and was the norm till a few decades ago before the concept of shopping plazas and malls emerged.

Heritage expert and author T.P. Issar in his book The Royal City writes, "In Mysore City, it is the planned markets, rather than the old evolved pettahs, which give it its familiar - in many ways unique - character".

Enclosed in a courtyard-kind of structure and mainly open to sky, the rectangular market is spread over 3.67 acres and was the biggest and the most vibrant of its kind in its heydays.

The market was built during the regime of Chamaraja Wadiyar X. and according to some scholars it was named after Dodda Devaraja Wadiyar who ruled in the 17th century C.E.

Forerunner to malls

It was the site of a traditional weekly market and a forerunner to the modern malls except that it dealt with traditional commodities. The market has nearly 825 shops that have been manned by generation of traders who know no other vocation but trading in traditional commodities and loathe to shift elsewhere.

The Devaraja Market has spanned hundreds of other business establishments on the periphery and the entire area bordered by major arterial roads constitute the heart of old Mysuru.

All through the ages the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) and the State Government neither took pains to maintain it nor bothered about the structural damage caused by tenants who took up ad hoc minor extension works in any which way that suited them.

Even as the debate on conservation vs demolition of the heritage market was raging for years, the north gate abutting the Dhanavantri Road collapsed in August 2016. The video documenting the collapse - and which was captured from a vantage point - went viral and led to speculation that the collapse was engineered deliberately to pave way for demolition.

What task force said

A task force was constituted by the Government in 2016 and it recommended that the building be demolished while a parallel body of experts from the Indian Heritage City Network questioned the finding and submitted another report stating that it can be conserved.

Prof. N.S. Rangaraju of INTACH Mysuru who is among those striving to save the heritage market, argued that the expert body was deliberately stacked with structural engineers with no knowledge of heritage conservation while architects who were keen to preserve the market, were deliberately kept out, and hence, he put a question mark on the validity of the final report.

Over the years, teams of conservation architects that studied the Devaraja Market favoured conservation while civil and structural engineers from the PWD and the Government preferred demolition and reconstruction.

In the courts

Finally, the District Heritage and Conservation Committee chaired by the Deputy Commissioner ruled that the Devaraja Market was a "fit case" for demolition. In the words of a senior bureaucrat of the day, "a clear cut decision" was taken favouring demolition and this forced the tenants to approach the High Court of Karnataka to bring in a stay.

But the Court upheld the expert body's recommendations, thus removing the legal obstruction for demolition.

But the demolition is something which will not happen overnight as the Government is cash-strapped to release funds for reconstruction of a new market which will not cost less than a few hundred crores of rupees. Again, a DPR finalizing the design etc has to be prepared none of which are a priority for this government as of now.

A breathter

This has given a breather to the conservationists and hence a last-ditch effort is being made to save the heritage market by drumming up public opinion. A group of professionals recently met at the Wadiyar Centre for Architecture Mysuru, and experts from INTACH Bengaluru chapter and Esthétique Architects, conducted a workshop to draw lessons from conservation efforts from different parts of the country and reflect on how it has helped the local economy.

The case studies were from Jaipur and Kolkata and Dr. Shikha Jain, conservation specialist and Founder Director of Development and Research Organisation for Nature, Arts and Heritage (DRONAH) made an online presentation on restoration of nearly a dozen traditional markets in Jaipur. These restored markets, it was pointed out, are now dynamic economic centres of Jaipur which has similar traits in terms of heritage, history and economy as that of Mysuru.

Prof Sanghamitra Basu, a conservation architect and a retired faculty of IIT Kharagpur, and member of the National Monuments Authority, Ministry of Culture, GOI, underlined the importance of conservation-led development based on an example from Kolkata.

The thrust of her presentation was that conservation was not about saving buildings but reviving the local economy, a view that will find strong resonance in case of conserving Devaraja Market.

Collective memory

Economics apart, the Devaraja Market is part of the collective memory and consciousness of people of Mysuru - just as Chamundi Hills is - and the market's demolition would obliterate a part of the city's heritage apart from its tangible and intangible values. A view echoed by the scion of the erstwhile royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar who highlighted this aspect.

Devaraja Market in Mysuru is a one-stop shop for traditional commodities. SRIRAM M.A.

Besides, he has dovetailed the conservation efforts to the concept of sustainable development to argue that while restoration of the market was environmentally sustainable, demolition and reconstruction was antithetical to it.

Another expert, Meera Iyer of INTACH, Bengaluru, drew from the conservation saga of the Attara Kacheri in Bengaluru to point out that there was still hope for the Devaraja Market. She highlighted the public activism that helped save Attara Kacheri which, like the Devaraja Market, was condemned for demolition in the 1980s and 1990s. While there are any number of examples of heritage buildings being restored and adapted, experts like Rangaraju have other concerns that have a bearing on the future. "If the view that there was no alternative but to demolish the Devaraja Market was not challenged, it will set a precedence and will pose danger to nearly 500 other heritage structures in Mysuru," according to Rangaraju.

Bolstering the conservationists argument that the heritage market can be saved, are live examples from Mysuru itself of such efforts including the conservation of Radhakrishnan's Bungalow and the Oriental Research Institute which were restored by the University of Mysore.

A ray of hope

Amidst the ongoing debate surrounding the future of the Devaraja Market, yet another heritage building which had all but collapsed and was staring at an uncertain future, is set to be conserved and restored to its former glory.

It is the Jayalakshmi Vilas Mansion - again in the campus of the University of Mysore - which houses a folklore library. It is set to be restored with private funding to the tune of ₹30 crore.

Such examples - with experience of similar restoration efforts from elsewhere in the country - are bound to help raise public interest and awareness about what is possible in the realms of heritage conservation giving a glimmer of hope that Devaraja Market too may get a new lease of life.

Kerala refuses to entertain pleas on land assignment Bill sent by Khan

K.S. Sudhi
KOCHI

Arif Mohammad Khan

The Kerala government has assessed the petitions on the Kerala Land Assignment (Amendment) Bill that were forwarded to it by Governor Arif Mohammad Khan as speculative ones that cannot be entertained. The government made its position clear to the Governor in its reply furnished the other day.

The stand may further escalate the stand-off between the Governor and the State government as Mr. Khan had insisted that he would sign the Bill only after the government replied to the petitions. The Governor had also complained that the government had not replied to the petitions despite three reminders from Raj Bhavan.

Changed circumstances

While refusing to entertain the representations, the State informed the Governor that none of the provisions of the Bill derogated the powers of the High Court or was repugnant to any Central laws. The State justified the Bill by stating that the amendment was necessary to address the needs of common people, considering the changed social circumstances six decades after the Land Assignment Act was passed.

It also took the position that the apprehensions of the petitioners were mere speculations which cannot be attributed any credence. The government further added that it was bound to act within the framework of the provisions of the Act and may consider issues of public interest while framing the rules for the Act, sources said.

The delay in the Governor acting on the Bill passed by the Assembly last year had blown up into a full-scale face-off between him and the State government with the ruling Left Democratic Front (LDF) calling for a hartal on January 9 in Idukki. The Communist Party of India (Marxist) [CPI(M)] had also taken out a Raj Bhavan march on the day protesting against the Governor.

Interestingly, the State had earlier refused to offer clarifications to a few objections, which were also forwarded by the Governor, raised by some quarters against the Kerala Public Health Bill, 2021.

Meanwhile, top legal officers in Kerala said the Governor could not sit on the Bill on the grounds that the government had not responded to the queries forwarded by him.

'Former MLA stole constituency by contesting on false caste certificate'

Karnataka HC says State authorities free to take action against him as per law for false caste claim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

G. Manjunatha, former MLA for Mulbagal constituency (Scheduled Caste), had "stolen constituency" from a person genuinely belonging to the category by contesting elections in 2013 based on a false caste certificate, the High Court of Karnataka has said.

Observing that his conduct of contesting the election to the State legislature on a false caste certificate "fringes on the borders of fraud on the Constitution," the court left it to the State authorities to take action as per law against him.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order recently while dismissing a petition filed by Mr. Manjunatha.

The former MLA had questioned the legality of the October 27, 2021, report of the District Caste Verification Committee (DCVC), which had said that he belongs to Byragi caste, which is a caste under the Other Backward Classes list, and he does not belong to Budaga Jangama caste (SC) as was claimed by him.

The High Court said the report of the DCVC "does not warrant any interference".

"It is a clear case that the petitioner contested the election on a caste certificate, which was on the face of it false, and became a lawmaker even, by stealing away a constituency that was meant for a person genuinely belonging to a Scheduled Caste. It is this act that fringes on the borders of fraud on the Constitution," the High Court observed.

Mr. Manjunatha's election as an Independent candidate from the Mulbagal Assembly constituency was set aside by the High Court in April 2018 by holding that he had failed to establish that he belongs to the Budaga Jangama caste.

On his appeal, the apex court had asked the DCVC to conduct an inquiry and submit a report. When the DCVC submitted the report dated October 27, 2021, the apex court asked him to challenge it before the High Court as the findings of the report were against him.

Mr. Manjunatha made a claim, for the first time, that he belonged to the Budaga Jangama caste in 2008, when he was 30. Both the tahsildar and the Deputy Commissioner had rejected his claim based on the outcome of the inquiry and his school records.

He had submitted another application in 2011-12 and claimed to have secured a caste certificate from the tahsildar. However, to an RTI query, the tahsildar said the computer-generated caste certificate was secured by misusing the official machinery.

The DCVC's recent verification found that none of his relatives have Budaga Jangama certificate. The DCVC also refused to accept his claim that there was a reference in the pre-independence Kolar Gazetteer that Budaga Jangama was also known by names such as 'malasanyasi', 'bairagi', etc., in different part.

Controversy over overseas travel echoes during fourth Paryaya of senior seer of Puthige Mutt

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Differences of Udupi Ashta Mutt seers with the senior seer of Puthige Mutt Sugunendra Tirtha over his 'Sagarollanghana' (overseas travel) continued during the seer's fourth Paryaya on Thursday, with the swamis of seven other mutts staying away from attending the customary Paryaya Darbar in the morning.

The outgoing Paryaya seer Vidyasagara Tirtha of Krishnapura Mutt did not hand over to him in person the keys of Sri Krishna Mutt/Temple, the 'Akshaya Patra' (a vessel which would keep feeding forever) and a 'sattuga' (ladle) and make him sit on the Sarvajna Peetha or the Paryaya Peetha as per the tradition. Instead, he kept them near the Paryaya Peetha. It was the senior seer of Udupi Admar Mutt Vishwapriya Tirtha who handed over these articles to Puthige Mutt seer and also made him sit on the Sarvajana Peetha.

As per the tradition of Ashta Mutts, a peethadhipati of any of the eight mutts who travels abroad loses the right to worship Lord Krishna at the Sri Krishna Mutt by touching the idol of the God. Since his overseas travel from 1997 onwards, Sri Sugunendra Tirtha has established 15 branches of Puthige Mutt in several countries. He has also travelled to 28 countries. The swami announced ahead of his fourth Paryaya that he wants to open 108 branches of the mutt all over the world in his lifetime.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday

TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Dense/very dense fog likely in some/isolated parts of Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal and Odisha. Cold wave/severe cold wave conditions likely in some/isolated parts of Punjab, Chandigarh and Himachal Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	22.4	10.4	Kozhikode	—	34.5	24.6
Ahmedabad	—	28.2	13.4	Kurnool	—	32.4	20.4
Aizawl	—	23.4	6.2	Lucknow	—	15.4	9.0
Allahabad	—	15.8	8.8	Madurai	—	33.0	20.6
Bengaluru	—	29.2	17.1	Mangaluru	—	31.0	23.6
Bhopal	—	24.3	10.6	Mumbai	—	29.0	17.5
Bhubaneswar	—	30.2	19.5	Mysuru	—	31.2	17.9
Chandigarh	—	19.6	5.9	New Delhi	—	18.6	6.6
Chennai	—	31.0	21.7	Patna	—	13.7	10.4
Coimbatore	—	31.8	19.2	Port Blair	—	31.2	26.2
Dehradun	—	22.6	5.6	Puducherry	—	31.2	21.8
Gangtok	2	11.4	6.1	Pune	—	28.5	11.5
Goa	—	31.8	20.3	Raipur	—	26.6	19.0
Guwahati	—	23.6	9.4	Ranchi	—	20.2	14.5
Hubballi	—	32.0	15.0	Shillong	—	14.4	3.0
Hyderabad	—	31.3	19.3	Shimla	—	15.5	4.8
Imphal	—	21.2	3.6	Srinagar	—	12.5	-4.6
Jaipur	—	20.9	5.8	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.6	20.7
Kochi	—	32.2	23.8	Tiruchi	—	32.3	21.0
Kohima	—	18.8	6.2	Vijayawada	—	29.8	19.2
Kolkata	—	19.1	14.6	Visakhapatnam	—	29.2	21.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	5	25	7	152	134	
Bengaluru	4	31	47	107	143	
Chennai	26	39	2	94	102	
Delhi	30	221	76	391	342	
Hyderabad	14	27	26	76	87	
Kolkata	12	68	36	242	144	
Lucknow	6	39	86	210	173	
Mumbai	14	94	20	160	122	
Pune	122	186	109	57	64	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	35	—	—	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Baddi, Himachal Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 358 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Palkalaiperur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 32

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER No. 93.23.6281 OPEN DUE ON 19.02.2024

Divisional Railway Manager (Stores) Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram Division invites E-tenders for the supply of under mentioned stores for and on behalf of the President of India.

Description : Off Track Tamper (Engine Mounted)

Quantity : 12 sets

Consignee : SSE/P.Way (STM)/QLN

Due date : 19.02.2024

Tender closing and opening date and time : 19.02.2024 at 14.30 hrs

For further details, please refer to web portal **www.ireps.gov.in**>E-Tender>Stores>View tenders. Please note that only online tenders are accepted and tenders are to be digitally signed.

Sr. Divisional Material Manager, Thiruvananthapuram

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailway

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore – 560009

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-08/TS/2023-24 Date: 17.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No:08/2023-24
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tender is invited through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under different head of account. The work details can be obtained from the Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before: **25-01-2024 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/3107/SPAN/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANT TO DEPUTY COMMISSIONER & EX-OFFICIO DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF LAND RECORDS KALABURAGI

No. EST/OS/BJ/Tender/51/2023-24 Date : 16-01-2024

TENDER NOTICE

DDLR Kalaburgi invites tender thorough e-procurement for BAND PEONs on outsource basis for ADLR's office Kalaburgi district. Last date and time for uploading of tender in e-Procurement is **01-02-2024 by 5.30PM.** More information available at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Technical Assistant to Deputy Commissioner and Ex-Officio Deputy Director of Land Records, Kalaburagi District

DIPR/Kalaburagi/689/KSMC&A/2023-24

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited
(A Joint Venture of GoI & GoK)
Metro Rail Depot, Old Madras Road, Near NGEF Bus Stop, Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru - 560 038. Ph: 080-25191039.
e-mail: contactus@bmrc.co.in Website: www.bmrc.co.in

No.: BMRCL/2023-24/BD/WORK_INDENT14 Date: 19.01.2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION

BMRCL invites tender from eligible tenderers for **"Maintenance Contract for Artificer Works (Petty Repairs) at Rashtreeya Vidyalaya Road (RVR), Banashankari (BSNK), Jaya Prakash Nagar (JPN) and Yelachenahalli (PUTH) Metro Stations in Reach-4A of Line-2".** Estimated Cost: **INR 97.76 Lakhs.** Tender Security Amount: **Rs. 1,95,520/-.** The work details can be obtained from the procurement website. The tender documents can be obtained and submitted **on or before 17.02.2024 up to 15.00 hrs.** Further details can be obtained from website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working works.

Sd/- Executive Director (O & M)

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines).

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
232413 006550	Procurement of Filler Grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (in Jumbo Bag) for Unit - I	01.02.2024
232433 000436	Procurement of Gypsum	03.02.2024
E-Mail	232413006550 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in 232433000436 - purchase.lsfm@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions are available in tender document which can be downloaded from websites: **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/279/Tender/2024 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

BANGALORE URBAN ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of the Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, First Floor, Zilla Panchayat Building, S. Kariyappa Road, Banashankari, Bengaluru - 560070.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(U)/TND/AE-2/29/2023-24 Dated: 18-01-2024

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Tenders are invited through e-Procurement by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Bangalore Urban, in Two Cover System for Approved Action Plan Works Under Deposit Contribution of 2022-23. The work details can be obtained from the e-Procurement Website. The Tender Documents can be obtained and Submitted **on or before 03-02-2024 upto 4.00 PM.** Further details can be obtained from Website at **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Urban Dist, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/3092/
Adverto/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

ABSTRACT BID NOTIFICATION (Through e-procurement portal only)

e-Tenders are invited for the procurement of the following materials under "GOODS" category on 11.01.2024, 12.01.2024 as per RTPS requirements through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in:**

(1) No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0766, Corrugated deck plate for CHP of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 63,900/-. **(2)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0574/Call-2, Valves for fire protection system for RTPS on ARC basis for one year. EMD: Rs. 7,300/-. **(3)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0683/Call-2, Trolly and ladders for CHP of RTPS. EMD: Rs. 9,800/-. **(4)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0762, Sulphuric Acid for the year 2024-25. EMD: Rs. 81,780/-. **(5)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0761, VHF Spares. EMD: Rs. 2,180/-. **(6)** No. KPCL/2023-24/IND0746, Spares for maintenance of Ingersoll-rand compressor for RTPS. EMD: Rs. 4,350/-. Last date & time for receipt of tenders: **for Sl. No. 1: 27.01.2024, 12.30 hrs., for Sl. No. 4 & 5: 27.01.2024, 16.00 hrs., for Sl. No. 2 & 3: 24.01.2024, 16.00 hrs. & for Sl. No. 6: 29.01.2024, 16.00 hrs.** All relevant details of the bids are available in the above mentioned e-portal. Further details can be had from the office of the Executive Engineer (Purchase) RTPS, KPCL, Shaktinagar-584170, Dist: Raichur, Cell: 9449597966, e-mail: **eeprtps@gmail.com**

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU - HINDU RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE ENDOWMENTS DEPARTMENT
ARULMIGHU MARIAMMAN TEMPLE, Samayapuram
Tiruchirapalli - 621 112
Landline No :0431 -2670460 E-mail :symmariamman@gmail.com

E- RETENDER NOTICE
CONTRACT TYPE : TWO COVER SYSTEM

Joint Commissioner / Executive officer of Arulmighu Mariamman temple invites E-ReTender for the following work. The tender document will be available in **www.tntenders.gov.in 30.01.2024** upto **11.00 AM.** Received tenders will be opened through online at **3.30 pm** on **30.01.2024.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approximate value of Work (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD Rs.	Period of Completion	Contractors Qualification
1.	Formation of Approach road from peruvala canal upto A/m Mariamman temple parking area and Construction of 0 – 300 m retaining wall in peruvala canal.	2227.00	11,23,500	18 months	Class 1 registered Contractor in Public Works Department and above or Class 1 registered Contractor in Highways Department

If the contractor's eligibility condition or any other condition in the tender document , corrected or modified will be intimated through the above website.

A.R. Prakash, B.Sc, M.L.
Fitperson / Joint Commissioner

DIPR/289/TENDER/2024

S.Kalyani, M.L.
Joint Commissioner / Executive officer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Public at large is hereby informed that our client intends to Joint Development transaction on the Schedule Properties with the respective Owners of the Schedule Properties the below mentioned properties i.e.,

1) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.63,** measuring about **3 Acre 10 Guntas**, including 1 Acre 10 Guntas A-Karab,
2) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.68,** measuring about **2 Acres**, including 12 Guntas of B-Karab,
3) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.42/3,** measuring about **1 Acres 27 Guntas**, including 3 Guntas of A-Karab, 10 Guntas of B-Karab
4) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/1,** measuring about **26 Guntas**, including 3 Guntas of A-Karab,
5) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/2,** measuring about **26 Guntas**, including 3 Guntas of A-Karab,
6) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/3,** measuring about **15 Guntas**, including 4 Guntas of A-Karab,
7) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/7,** measuring about **9 Guntas**, including 2 Guntas of B-Karab,
8) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.67,** measuring about **1 Acre 37 Guntas**, including 13 Guntas of B-Karab,
9) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.37/2,** measuring about **2 Acres 33 Guntas**, including 08 Guntas of A-Karab,
10) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/4,** measuring about **18 Guntas**, including 03 Guntas of A-Karab,
11) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/5,** measuring about **16 Guntas**, including 02 Guntas of A-Karab,
12) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/6,** measuring about **1 Acre**, including 10 Guntas of Karab,
13) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing Old **Sy.No.44/1, New Sy No.44/5,** measuring about **0 Acre 08.8 Guntas**, carved out as per survey sketch in block No.2,
14) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Old Sy.No.42/1 of Block No-1, New Sy No.42/4,** measuring about **1 Acre 20 Guntas**, including 06 Guntas of A-Karab and 08 Guntas of B-Karab,
15) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.56/1,2,3, (Old SY No.56)**measuring about **14 Acres 15 Guntas**,(**7 Acres 18 Guntas** in Block-1 and **2 Acres** in Block-2) including 3 Acres 23 Guntas of B-Karab
16) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.57,** measuring about **2 Acres** including 10 Guntas of A-Karab
17) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.64,** measuring about **1 Acre** including 15 Guntas of A-Karab
18) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.66,** measuring about **2 Acres 15 Guntas,** including 1 Acre of A-Karab
19) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.65,** measuring about **3 Acres 19 Guntas,** including 1 Acre 30 Guntas of Karab
20) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.62,** measuring about **20 Guntas,** including 04 Guntas of "A" Karab
21) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.43/1,** measuring about **26 Guntas,** including 03 Guntas of "A" Karab

All the above properties situated at Madivala Village, Vokkaleri Hobli, Kolar Taluk.

22) All that piece and parcel of the immovable Property bearing **Sy.No.9/3,** measuring about **10.04 Guntas,** including 9 Guntas of "A" Karab

The above property situated at Kendatti Gollahalli Village, Vokkaleri Hobli, KolarTaluk.

Present Owners :1) for Sy No.37/2, Sy No.66, Sy No.42/4(Old SY.No.42/1) , Sy No.43/4, Sy No.43/5, Sy No.43/6, Sy No.44/5, SY No.56/1, Sy No.56/2, Sy No.57, Sy No.64 these lands owner is **Sri. Gandarothu Veera Venkata Vinayak S/o Sri.Krishna Rao.**
2) for Sy No.63, this land owner is **Sri.A.Narayana Rao S/o Alte .Sri.Narasimha Rao.**
3) for Sy No.68, this land owner is **Sri.Gandarothu Vijay Kumar S/o Sri.Krishna Rao.**
4) for Sy No.42/3, Sy No.43/1, Sy No.43/2, Sy No.43/3, Sy No.43/7 Sy No.67 these lands owner is **Smt.G.Ananatha laxmi Sathyavathi W/o Sri.G.V.V.Vinayak.**
5) for Sy No.65 and Sy No.62, these lands owner is **Kumari.Gandrothu Hasini Krishna D/o Sri.G.V.V.Vinayak.**
6) for Sy No.9/3, situated at Kendatti Gollahalli Village, this land owner is **Sri.Gandarothu Vijay Kumar S/o Sri.Krishna Rao.**

If any Person/s, Financial Institution/s, Bank/s, or any Statutory Body/ies having any right, title or interest or claim of any nature over the said properties or having objections to this intended sale may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 15 days from this day to the undersigned failing which our client will proceed with the transaction as if no one has any objection or claim in respect of the above properties. Any claim or objection lodged thereafter shall not be binding on our client.

SNR ASSOCIATES, Advocates,
Flat No.402, Fourth Floor, "Samaikyaa's K.K.Veni Plaza",
B.Narayanapura, White Field Main Road, Bangalore – 560 016.
Ph: 9900007938, 9164134628.

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
OFFICE OF THE, Executive Engineer, KNNL, R7R Divn., Athani – 591304, Tq: Athani. Dist: Belgaum (Karnataka).

No.EE/KNNL/R&R/PB/TND/FIC/TBLIS/DC-1A/KEC/2023-24/1278 Date: 17-01-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp-protal only)

Percentage tenders are invited as per KW-4 in Two cover system for below mentioned and System for from eligible tenderers, for the works detailed below by the undersigned.

On behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, R&R Division Athani, invites percentage basis tender from interested, experienced and resourceful civil contractors from KPWD Class II Above Contractors who fulfill the pre-qualification criteria for the bellow mentioned work.

The two cover bid submission procedure as per Rule 28 of KTPP Act shall be followed The bidders are requested to submit their bids in two cover system including EMD in e-cash. The first cover (Technical Bid) should contain the documents as mentioned in Para 1.1, The second cover shall contain the financial bid. The cover-I (Technical bid) will be opened first. Thereafter cover-II (financial bid) of only those bidders who have fulfill the conditions contained in Para.4 will be opened.

The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and can be submitted through electronic tender only.

The approximate estimated cost of work is Rs. 426.94 Lakhs, Rs. 327.06 Lakhs , Rs. 444.21 Lakhs , Rs. 479.76 Lakhs , Rs. 359.59 Lakhs , Rs. 422.20 Lakhs , Rs. 489.75 Lakhs.

1:The contractor can request for e-tendering documents:From 19-01-2024@ 10.30 AM to 29-01-2024. upto 4.00 PM, 2:Last date & time for tender queries:24-01-2024 upto 4.00 PM, 3:Pre bid meeting will be held in the office of the EE R&R Division Athani:24-01-2024 @ 11.00 AM, 4:Submission of completed e-tendering document:From 19-01-2024@ 10.30 AM to 29-01-2024. upto 4.00 PM, 5:Opening of Technical Bid at EE KNNL R&R Division Athani: 31-01-2024 @ 11.00 AM, 6:Opening of Financial Bid at EE KNNL R&R Division Athani:02-02-2024 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Technical Bid, 7:Date for Producing original document @ EE KNNL R&R Division Athai:03-02-2024 @ 11.00 AM or After approval of Financial Bid.

Any other information can be had from the undersigned during the office hours on telephone:08289-285031.

Sd/-S.B.BAGI, Executive Engineer,
KNNL R&R Division, Athani

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-960/KSMCA/2023-24

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI
Phone: 08472/ 278675, Fax : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-01/15TH FC-SFC-Corp/02/2023-24 Date : 17-01-2024

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL TENDER NOTIFICATION

1) Name of Work : 2023-24 15TH FC SFC Capital Asset, C.o.w SFC SPECIAL GRANT 2018-19, 2023-24 Corporation Fund.Total (41) Works Tender, 2) Head of Account: 2023-24 15TH FC SFC Capital Asset, C.o.w SFC SPECIAL GRANT 2018-19, 2023-24 Corporation Fund total (41) Works Tender, 3) Tender Amount : **Max Rs. 60,00,000.00 Mini Rs. 2,30,000.00** 4) Eligibility of Contractor : Class-IV And Above, As per Bid Document, 6) Last Date for Bid Submission : **01.02.2024 Upto 4:00pm,** 7) Cost of Tender Schedule : Tender Fee As Per KPPP EMD Max Rs. 1,20,000.00 Mini Rs. 5,750.00, 8) Tender Technical Bid opening Date: **02.02.2024 Up to 4:30 pm**, 9) Tender Financial Bid opening Date : **05.02.2024 Up to 11.30AM** 10) Contact Address & Mobile No : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 9972263001/9448140095, 11) Web Site : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/677/KSMC&A/2023-24

Motivated litigation

Courts should not allow suits that seek to convert places of worship

In staying the execution of an Allahabad High Court order to appoint a commissioner to inspect the Shahi Idgah Mosque in Mathura, the Supreme Court has stalled for a while a likely move to get the status of the place of worship altered through the courts. The top court has halted the appointment of the commission after finding it was sought on vague grounds without any particular reason. It has also taken into account a recent precedent in which the Supreme Court has ruled that civil courts should not grant any interim relief if there is a question about the maintainability of the suit or if the suit is barred by law. The committee of management of the Shahi Idgah Mosque has questioned the maintainability of the suit in the name of the deity, Bhagwan Sri Krishna Virajman, and other Hindu worshippers on the ground that it is barred by the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991, which prohibits the conversion of the religious character of any place of worship as it was on August 15, 1947. It also bars any fresh suit aimed at altering the status of a place of worship. Hindu devotees have been claiming that the mosque, located adjacent to a Krishna temple there, is standing on the birthplace of Lord Krishna. Several suits are pending in connection with the mosque in Mathura and the Allahabad High Court has transferred all the suits to itself for disposal.

The appointment of a commission to inspect the premises appeared to be an exercise to show that architectural features and artefacts of Hindu provenance could be found. The legal strategy is similar to the one through which Hindu worshippers obtained official sanction for gathering purported evidence to back their case at the Gyanvapi Mosque, Varanasi, where the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has been asked to do a scientific survey. The Mathura dispute, however, was settled through a compromise between the Sri Krishna Janmasthan Seva Sansthan and the Shahi Idgah Trust in 1968, and implemented through a decree in 1973. As part of the settlement, the Sansthan had given up a portion of the land to the Idgah. The current suits challenge this compromise as 'fraudulent' and seek the transfer of the entire parcel of land to the deity. The use of the judiciary to make a concerted attack on Muslim places of worship by claiming that they were built on structures of Hindu origin has become an unfortunately regular feature. Courts must be wary of encouraging such motivated litigation, and determine at the earliest stage whether such suits are maintainable in view of the statutory bar in the 1991 Act.

Smaller citizens

Despite rising enrolment, gaps in India's education system are not closing quickly

The pandemic was difficult for India's youngest citizens, the children, but the true import of its impact is coming to light now. The Annual Status of Education Report, titled "ASER 2023: Beyond Basics" and released on Wednesday, a survey by the civil society organisation Pratham among rural students aged 14 to 18, reveals that more than half struggled with basic mathematics, a skill they should have mastered in Classes 3 and 4. The household survey, the first field-based one in four years, was conducted in 28 districts across 26 States and assessed the foundational reading and arithmetic abilities of 34,745 students. In other findings, about 25% of this age group cannot read a Class 2 level text in their mother tongue; boys are, however, better in arithmetic and English reading skills than girls. Overall, 86.8% in the 14-18 year age group are enrolled in an educational institution, but there are gaps as they grow older – while 3.9% of 14-year-olds are not in school, the figure climbs to 32.6% for 18-year-olds. Also, for Class 11 and higher, most students opt for Humanities; while girls are less likely to be enrolled in the science stream (28.1%) compared with boys (36.3%), only 5.6% have opted for vocational training or other related courses.

The proportion of children opting for private tuition nationwide went up from 25% in 2018 to 30% in 2022. Close to 90% of the youngsters surveyed have a smartphone and know how to use it, though many are unaware of online safety settings. The trends, especially the lag in reading and solving simple arithmetic, give an inkling of what ails the education system, and the corrective measures required. The National Education Policy 2020 says the top priority is to "achieve universal foundational literacy and numeracy in primary school by 2025". The report says all States have made a major push in foundational literacy and numeracy under the NIPUN Bharat Mission, but the numbers show that in a diverse and vast country such as India, there is a lot of catching up to do. While rising enrolment is a good thing, what awaits the students after they finish the compulsory school cycle (Class 8) is not all that rosy, sometimes because they are simply not able to cope with the ambitious curriculum set for the higher secondary level. The Right to Education Act, 2009 may have ensured universal access to education, but there is many a gap to fill before it touches every child in the true spirit of the legislation.

Beleaguered Indian media: Quo Vadis?

Shashi Tharoor

is third-term MP for Thiruvananthapuram and the Sahitya Akademi Award-winning author of 24 books, including *The Battle of Belonging: Patriotism, Nationalism and What It Means to Be Indian* and most recently, *Ambedkar: A Life*

Since liberalisation in 1991, the audiovisual media has transformed itself. Economic growth, the freeing of broadcast media from government control and the Internet have all prompted an explosion in the quantity, if not quality, of media offerings. In the process, Indian journalism changed in style as well as substance. But this has not always been a "good thing".

Media now is driven by the "breaking news" culture and the search for the villain of the day: the news must be broken and so, it seems, must the person. Television news in India, with far too many channels competing 24/7 for the same sets of eyeballs and ratings points ("TRPs"), has long given up any pretence of providing a public service, with the "breaking news" story privileging sensation over substance. (Indian TV epitomises the old witticism about why television is called a 'medium': 'Because it is neither rare nor well done.') The Fourth Estate today serves simultaneously as witness, prosecutor, judge, jury and executioner. In ancient times, India put its accused through *agnipariksha*, a trial by fire; today, we put them through a trial by media.

Social media, with its culture of unverified "fact" and viral opinion, compounds the problem: it offers a ready platform for material that would not have passed editorial scrutiny. Sadly, matters are not much better in the print media, despite its ability to provide context, depth, and analysis that television cannot.

However, print media has also been affected; journalists trying to keep up with the relentless 24x7 breaking news cycle, and the rise of social media, now feel pressed to publish without the traditional recourse to fact-checking.

The result is that our media, in its rush to air the story, has fallen prey to the inevitable rush to judgment: it has become a willing accomplice of the motivated leak and the malicious allegation. Charges are reported uncritically, without editors asking even the most basic questions about their plausibility. The damage is done in a blaze of lurid headlines – and rectification, if it comes at all, comes too feebly and too late to undo the irreparable damage to innocent people's reputations.

The Fourth Estate having slipped from its true place in a democracy is a serious concern and there's much to do to set things right again

The distinctions among fact, opinion and speculation, reportage and rumour, sourced information and unfounded allegation, which are drummed into journalism students' heads the world over, have blurred into irrelevance in today's Indian media.

This should be a matter of serious concern to all right-thinking Indians, because free media are the lifeblood of our democracy. They provide the information that enables a free citizenry to make the choices of who governs them and how, and ensures that those who govern will remain accountable to those who put them there. It is the media's job to look critically at elected officials' actions (or inaction), rather than at marginalia that have no impact on the public welfare.

Instead, the media's obsession with the superficial and the sensational trivialises public discourse, abdicates the watchdog responsibility that must be exercised by free media in a democracy, and serves as a weapon of mass distraction for the public from the real questions of accountability with which the governed must confront the government.

Despite these concerns and criticisms, I remain strongly wedded to a free press. I have always valued the evocative image of the canary in a cage being sent down a mine-shaft to see if there is enough oxygen at the bottom; if it comes back dead, or spluttering for air, you know it is not safe for miners to be sent down. The free press is like that canary; if it is choking or suffocated, that is a clear indication that society is no longer safe for the rest of us.

Government needs a free and professional media to keep it honest and efficient, to serve as both mirror (to society) and scalpel (to probe wrongdoing). If instead all we have is a blunt axe, society is not well served. The free press is both the mortar that binds together the bricks of our country's freedom, and the open window embedded in those bricks.

No Indian democrat would call for censorship, or for controls on the free press: it is bad enough that our current rulers have intimidated newspapers and blocked TV channels for publishing news that is prejudicial to government interests, as was the case three times in the past few years, arrest journalists under UAPA and deny them bail. What democrats want is not less journalism, but better journalism.

How do we get there?

First, we must engender a culture of fact-verification and accuracy that the industry currently appears to lack. Journalists should not feel pressed by their employers to "break the news", but empowered to hold stories until they are sure their facts and accusations are accurate. The rush to judgment on the basis of partial information must stop.

Second, we must insist on better journalistic training at accredited media institutes that emphasise values of accuracy, integrity and fairness in their students. These standards should extend to media organisations: when false claims or intentionally misleading statements are published or broadcast, TV and print news outlets should issue retractions with equal prominence.

Third, we must welcome different perspectives in our newsrooms and not allow them to become echo chambers forcing an opinion onto their viewers in the guise of "the nation wants to know". Newsrooms must be required to maintain a more diverse journalistic environment. Every story plugging a point of view must be required to provide some space for the alternative view, or for a refutation.

Fourth, journalists must welcome comments and feedback from their viewers and readers, to generate both an environment of trust between the consumers and the media, and the feeling on the part of the public that they are not merely passive recipients of a point of view. *The Hindu* is one of the newspapers to have had a Readers' Editor who serves as an Ombudsman for the newspaper and acknowledges mistakes of fact or emphasis in the newspaper's coverage. This helps drive a natural cycle of loyalty and engagement between the paper and its readers.

Fifth, the government must introduce laws and regulations that limit control of multiple news organisations by a single business or political entity, thereby encouraging an independent and robust press in the country. A powerful business interest, vulnerable to government pressure, will usually override ethical journalistic concerns. India is one of the few major countries where no restrictions currently exist when it comes to media ownership by its affluent citizens.

Finally, a single overseer for print and television news companies, as recommended by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India and the parliamentary Committee on Information Technology when I chaired it, would help limit the power of corporate and political behemoths over our media and help promote media standards.

The best is yet to come. India's population is becoming more literate by the day, resulting in an ever-growing mass of media consumers. But they deserve a media that contributes to shaping an informed, educated and politically aware India, one ready to hold its governments accountable, its society safe and its people ready to push boundaries.

If India wishes to be taken seriously by the rest of the world as a responsible global player and a model 21st-century democracy, we will have to take ourselves seriously and responsibly as well. Our media would be a good place to start.

Crafting a new phase in India-U.K. defence ties

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice President for Studies and Foreign Policy at Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi

Kartik Bommakanti

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's recent visit to the United Kingdom (U.K.) came after a hiatus of 22 years. Opportunities have grown significantly in the past few years as opposed to two decades ago. The growth of Chinese military power and in particular, its expansion into the Indian Ocean which threatens India and also Sea Lines of Communications (SLOCs), on which the U.K. depends, have given the British an opportunity to reorient their strategic priorities.

The Indian Navy has several capability-related needs to make up for the shortfalls the service faces vis-à-vis the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). Securing key technologies has been an integral part of Mr. Singh's visit to the U.K. The U.K. is in a position to help redress the Indian Navy's technological gaps against the Chinese.

One key area where London and New Delhi are cementing cooperation is in electrical propulsion to power aircraft carriers. The Indian Navy's carriers, at present, are not powered by electric propulsion technology. The Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers of the Royal Navy (RN) use electric propulsion and the RN has mastered this technology.

In the run-up to Mr. Singh's visit, there were already preliminary engagements between the Indian and U.K. governments regarding the Indian Navy securing electric propulsion technology. Though the PLAN for its part struggled to overcome the technical challenges associated with electric propulsion, there is increasing yet anecdotal evidence emerging that it is in the process of integrating electric propulsion into its warships such as the Type 054B frigates.

The Indian Navy cannot sit idly and allow the Chinese navy to steal a march on a key piece of maritime technology for its advanced surface combatants in the future. The advantage of using electric propulsion is that warships integrated with this capability produce a low acoustic signature by removing the link between the principal mover and propulsion. There is also the added advantage of enhanced electrical power generation for subsystems in major warships of the Indian Navy's surface fleet.

The establishment of a joint working group dubbed the "India-UK electric propulsion capability partnership" first met in February 2023 and thereafter a delegation-level discussion was held on the Royal Navy frigate *HMS Lancaster*, which made a port visit to Kochi in March last year. Extensive discussion took place the following month on the transfer of technical know-how and the Royal Navy's experience in maritime electric propulsion for the Indian Navy's major surface combatants in the future.

In November 2023, the India-U.K. electric propulsion capability partnership again met to discuss the possibility of the Indian Navy's future warships to be integrated with electric propulsion technology. The British have agreed to train, equip and help establish the infrastructure necessary to develop an electric propulsion system. Initially, the technology is expected to be tested on landing platforms docks and thereafter on surface vessels such as guided missile destroyers belonging to the next generation with a displacement of over 6,000 tonnes.

While there are considerable opportunities in the India-U.K. defence relationship, challenges remain. A key challenge relates to legacy issues, especially in London's effort to balance its ties between India and Pakistan. Successive U.K. governments have simultaneously supplied India and Pakistan with weapons or curbed weapons exports, leaving many in India frustrated with British motives and objectives in the Subcontinent.

Nettlesome issues surrounding Khalistan and Sikh separatism will cloud the relationship. But today strategic realities have shifted with the emergence of the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) as a major naval power whose deployments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) are expanding rapidly, creating a very strong rationale for forging closer defence ties between the U.K. and India. Several joint military exercises have already taken place between the two countries with deeper defence industrial cooperation on the anvil and during Mr. Singh's visit, the British officially declared that they will be deploying a littoral response group, a specialised amphibious warfare group in 2024 and carrier strike group in 2025 to train and increase interoperability with the Indian Navy.

With Mr. Singh's visit to the U.K., London is both rediscovering and bolstering its military involvement and presence East of Suez, which it had considerably until the late 1960s.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Ayodhya conundrum

The BJP has often labelled the Congress as being anti-Hindu, but with the Shankaracharyas declining the invitation to the Ayodhya temple function, will the BJP reassess its narrative? Will spiritual leaders who have chosen not to participate be spared from having similar labels affixed to them? This occasion prompts reflection on the delicate balance between spiritual traditions and political engagements. The BJP's stance on those who decline the invitation will reveal whether they prioritise past rhetoric or acknowledge the sacred nature of the ceremony.

Jigmet Chondol,
Hunder Nubra, Ladakh

It is unfortunate that spiritual heads are being dragged into controversy over the Ayodhya consecration ceremony, especially when they have been playing a pivotal role in preserving Hindu culture. When they raised objections over the event, it is expected that the national party in power BJP discuss the issue but there appears to be some sort of effort to gloss over the issue. A situation where the political Opposition, intellectuals, human rights activists, filmmakers, and journalists have been silenced should not arise here.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao
Hyderabad

One hopes that the donations made at the Ayodhya temple will be used to give life to a vision — one that leads to the uplift of the poor, starting with the improvement of government schools (infrastructure, sufficient teachers, laboratories, sports facilities, washrooms and water supply). Many of them run more than one class in one room which creates disturbance for all. Even otherwise rooms are congested, roofs leak, there is scant water supply water. One hopes that such a plan is being thought of.

P.V. Rao Sreelekha,
Secunderabad

Ayodhya will have the distinction of having mega religious structures. The mosque after completion is bound to draw Muslims from across the world. Given some of the dimensions of some articles of faith, these should remind devotees to eventually promote harmony.

R. Janakiraman,
Cheyyar, Tamil Nadu

The remarks by Jnanpith laureate M.T. Vasudevan Nair, coming down on the 'ritualistic worship' of leaders in power, must serve as an eye-opener to the autocratic leaders and their shameless and die-hard admirers indulging in unashamed sycophancy and hero-worshipping (January 12). Unfortunately in India, several elected leaders consider themselves as the state. It remains to be seen whether any 'wise man' of letters or political leader will be emboldened by the laureate's words and gather courage guts to speak truth to power.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Should AI models be allowed to use copyrighted material for training?

PARLEY

Cecilia Ziniti

is a San Francisco-based lawyer specialising in technology and start-up companies

Arul George Scaria

is an Associate Professor at the National Law School of India University

On December 27, 2023, the *New York Times* filed a lawsuit against OpenAI and its backer Microsoft, accusing them of copyright infringement. The *NYT* has alleged that OpenAI used thousands of its articles to train ChatGPT, a large language model, without permission or compensation. The lawsuit says that this has positioned ChatGPT as a competing source of information to the *NYT*, which has implications for the newspaper's business model.

Should AI models be allowed to use copyrighted material for training? Arul George Scaria and Cecilia Ziniti discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **P.J. George.** Edited excerpts:

In the context of the *NYT* versus OpenAI case, how does the fair use doctrine apply to the training of AI models on copyrighted material?

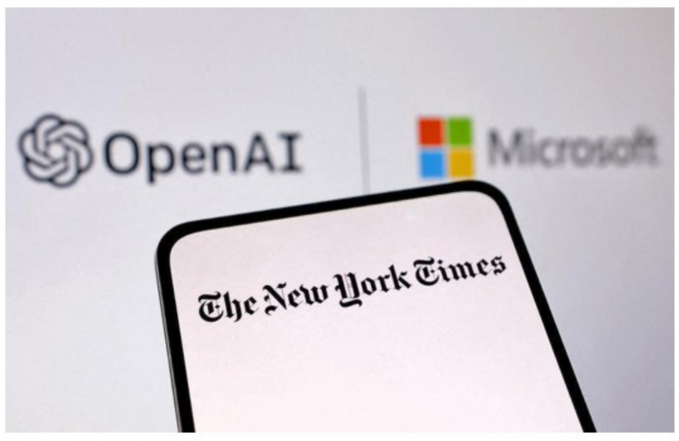
Cecilia Ziniti: In U.S. law, fair use is Section 107 of the Copyright Act. Essentially, it's a four-factor test, and it's notoriously difficult to predict. OpenAI has a good case, but so does the *NYT*. The first factor that goes into the fair use analysis is the purpose and character of the use. In other words, how is OpenAI using that content? The second is the nature of the copyrighted work. Is it highly creative? Of course, the *NYT* would say that it is. The third is the amount used. Is OpenAI using all of *NYT's* content or only as much as they need to effectuate their use? The fourth is the effect of the use on the market value of the original. Does OpenAI's use of *NYT's* content somehow decrease its (*NYT's*) market opportunities?

Fair use doctrine calls for the balancing of the factors. OpenAI's argument would be that [its use of the material] is transformative. That is, by using *NYT's* work to train a model, it's not replacing the use of *NYT*. OpenAI would cite cases about Google Books, thumbnails, or scraping, where works that don't replace the original were found to be transformative and therefore fair use.

Arul George Scaria: This is a unique generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) case wherein both the parties are on strong grounds. *NYT* has produced evidence which shows verbatim reproduction of content that it owns. This makes the fair use analysis even tougher to predict. Another important exhibit is that if prompts were directed in a certain manner, it returned a specific paragraph of an *NYT* article. Would this be considered as a substitute for subscribing to the *NYT*? That's something which the court might have to look into.

However, I take the view that the use of copyrighted material for the purpose of training an AI should not be considered infringement because it comes within the broad ambit of the fair use exception. A word of caution here: the U.S. fair use analysis is broad in scope because there is no purpose-specific limitation. If you can convince the court through the four factors that Cecilia mentioned or any other additional relevant factors, you might be able to establish that it is fair use. India doesn't have a broad exception like the U.S. What we have is a fair dealing exception complemented with a long list of enumerated exceptions. It is unfortunate that within the enumerated exceptions, we don't have a specific text and data mining exception. This means that if a similar case happens in India, the only way we can justify the training might be in terms of fair dealing.

Here, my view is that the court will have to take a very liberal interpretation of the purposes mentioned if it wants to accommodate training. Ideally, they should be doing that. There are precedents from other parts of the globe, particularly Canada, wherein the courts have made a very liberal interpretation for the purposes mentioned under a similar fair dealing provision.



The *NYT's* lawsuit against OpenAI has kick-started a global conversation around copyright infringement and the limits of AI inclusion. REUTERS

CZ: Fair use as a doctrine goes back to 1841, to a case about copying the writings of George Washington. A biographer got the copyright to Washington's papers, and another copied 353 pages of them. The court at that time came up with this balancing test that we still use. There are lots of fun precedents we can look at.

There is the case [in 1984] between Sony, the maker of the BetaMax videotape recording technology (VCR), and Universal Studios, which argued that the technology could be used for copyright infringement. The U.S. Supreme Court found that there was a substantial non-infringing use, which was time-shifting [recording a programme to watch later]. Those are the kinds of cases that the courts will look to. It's also possible that there is a legislative solution, such as what happened with the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, which is a way for online providers to manage copyright infringement on their platforms.

AGS: Cecilia, in the *NYT* case, one of the interesting claims is that the digital protection measures that were put in place by *NYT* were overridden when the contents were used for AI training. Do you think that would have any influence on fair use analysis in the U.S.?

> In the case of generative AI, who is the author? If I ask generative AI to edit a paragraph of mine, and then I edit it again, at what point am I the author versus the AI?
> CECILIA ZINITI

CZ: One of the rights of a copyright holder is control over how their content is displayed. Stripping the information on who the owner of a particular content is, is an additional claim. However, if it is fair use, then it's not actually part of the copyright and there is no claim. It is not as if there has been a crime and fair use is a defence. If it is fair use, there has been no crime because the copyright does not extend that far.

AGS: Thanks for that clarification. If you look at the Indian situation, we still haven't seen any specific litigation in the context of text and data mining. But any future litigation will have to be within the ambit of the fair dealing exception, provided under Section 52 (1a) of the Copyright Act. Under the statute, there are three categories of users that you need to fit into for fairness analysis. However, many scholars as well as courts from other jurisdictions, particularly Canada, have shown that the courts can take a liberal approach about the purposes mentioned in the fair dealing provision.

On the specific issue of training-related infringement claims, a strong argument in court could be that it is part of the broader research purpose. Ideally, what India should be doing if copyrighted materials are to be allowed for training purposes is either have a text and data mining exception inserted into the copyright statute or turn the fair dealing exception into a fair use exception. Some jurisdictions which had been following the fair dealing exception have already changed it into fair use exception, particularly to deal with emerging technologies.

What is the law on copyright for AI-generated material?

CZ: In the U.S., the Copyright Office has said that AI-generated material is not copyrightable, which makes sense since the precedents talk about a human needing to be involved. Funnily enough, the case that is the best precedent on this is about a monkey. A monkey in Indonesia took several selfies on a camera set up by a nature photographer. After several disputes over who can benefit from the copyright of these images, it was shown that neither the photographer nor the monkey can. This case stands for the proposition in copyright law that there must be an author, which goes back to the U.S. Constitution.

In the case of generative AI, who is the author? If I ask generative AI to edit a paragraph of mine, and then I edit it again, at what point am I the author versus the AI? These are tough questions. So far the Copyright Office has indicated that purely AI-generated content is not going to get copyright.

AGS: The Indian Copyright Office has sadly messed up on this matter. There was one application for an AI-generated painting which was initially rejected but when it was submitted again as a jointly authored work by a human and an AI, the Indian Copyright Office accepted it without any deliberation on the consequences or on the question of whether that was allowed under the copyright statute. When the matter became a controversy, it issued a notice saying that it is withdrawing the copyright. But when I was looking at the Copyright Office records recently, it looks like that's still under registration.

If you go by the spirit and letter of the Copyright Act of 1957 in India, there is no way a non-human can be granted copyright protection. One of the important steps taken by the U.S. Copyright Office recently is that they have issued guidelines categorically mentioning that the applicant should disclose whether AI has been used, and if so, in what manner. Such disclosure is necessary in today's context.

How do you see the situation evolving around AI training or AI-generated works and copyright?

CZ: When Napster came out and peer-to-peer file sharing took off, it was clear that there needed to be a market solution where you could pay for music. Enter iTunes, which created a way for us to transact online to buy songs and paved the way for Spotify, Amazon Music and every other music service. I think it will be similar here. As the technology grows and as people want to create fan art or want to be inspired by different things that are copyrighted, you could have a mechanism to pay the artist. A market-based solution is likely here.

AGS: When we talk with the policymakers in India or Europe or elsewhere, one of the most evident things is the fear of missing out. On ownership, many people tend to flag that the Chinese courts are now allowing it. We should step away from that fear and ask, what is the primary purpose of granting copyright protection? If it is promoting creativity, then yes, we need to fine-tune our policies to ensure that the broader objective is met. The use of copyrighted materials for training purposes should generally be considered fair use. At the same time, we should also ensure that if Open AI or anyone else is using copyrighted material for training, they don't seek copyright protection for the content generated by the AI concerned.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

The anxious Indian flier

While an insecure passenger is an unsafe traveller, should rules framed to ensure safety clash with comfort and convenience of travellers?

Jagriti Chandra

The past few days have not been the best for air travel, especially for Indian passengers and crew. As the dense fog over North India led to inordinate delays, temperatures soared inside aircraft, at departure gates, and on the tarmac, with the crew and the passengers on a collision course. On one particular day, hundreds of flights were cancelled and hundreds more delayed. If you have read the news or scanned social media, you would know the plight of the harried passengers. One of them assaulted a pilot aboard an IndiGo Delhi-Goa flight because the service had been delayed for nine hours; at the Mumbai airport, passengers sat on the apron and had food after their flight from Goa to Delhi took off 12 hours late and was diverted to Mumbai and held up by procedural issues.

Worsening the weather-induced delay is poor communication from the airlines. As a journalist who covers the aviation sector, I can say that air travel laws around the world have been framed to ensure the safety of passengers and aircraft. Be it the rules regulating duty hours for pilots or those defining punishments for disruptive passengers, all have as their rationale passengers safety. But there is equally a need for airlines to look at discontented passengers as a threat to safety.

Gone are the days when passengers were happy merely being carted from one place to another because flying was then a novel experience. Today, they demand attention and care. Airline heads acknowledge that the service levels in aviation have not kept pace with the retail or hospitality sectors. Combine poor customer satisfaction with the absence of a robust consumer rights framework, or the lack of an ombudsman to handle passenger grievances, and you have a deadly cocktail of factors that can quickly escalate into a disaster. An insecure passenger is an unsafe traveller, and the airlines must strive to ease the stress by showing that they care.

While I am not condoning the attack on the IndiGo pilot, it's possible that the passenger lost his cool because of incessant delays, and poor communication. The complex nature of airport operations and security protocols requires that an airline fill the plane with passengers and close its doors to get into departure mode, even if sometimes, take-offs can be delayed for a few hours because of poor visibility. Further, if passengers have to be deplaned because of the delay, fresh security check is required, which will push the aircraft further back in the departure queue. But the onus is on the airlines to impress upon those framing rules and operating procedures that one can't confine hundreds of passengers or paying customers inside an aircraft for several hours on the pretext of complex procedures. The Mumbai apron incident occurred because the airline was more concerned about rotating aircraft from Goa to Delhi for the next morning's flight rather than the well-being of passengers.

Airlines will have to put the customer at the centre of their operational philosophy. Now, there seems to be too much emphasis on "on-time performance" and offering the lowest-of-low airfares. Travel anxiety is real, thanks to the long queues at multiple points at the airport, and security checks and several restrictions. Airlines must extend a human touch to calm frayed tempers, and that should reflect in aviation policies.

After all, India is set to "power global aviation", in the words of Airbus India head Remi Maillard, as the fastest-growing aviation market. Can we then ignore the central figure of this growth story, the Indian passenger?

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Cruising over water

In the fast lane: Inaugurated on January 13, the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sewri-Nhava Sheva Atal Setu now stands as the longest sea bridge in the country. The six-lane bridge has reduced the 42-km Mumbai-Navi Mumbai drive to 20 minutes. ANI

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1974

Joint move by Non-Aligned on oil crisis planned

New Delhi, Jan. 18: The principal non-aligned countries are exploring the possibilities of a joint approach to the oil-rich Arab States to help the poorer nations out of the present fuel crisis by extending them reasonable credits to pay for their petroleum requirements, pending a global solution to this problem. During President Tito's visit to Delhi later this month to receive the Nehru award, India and Yugoslavia will discuss how the non-aligned powers should proceed to persuade the oil-producing countries like Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Libya and Algeria to come to the rescue of the developing nations which have been hit badly by the punitive price escalation. In the case of the poorer nations, the problem is their total inability to pay for their petroleum requirements at the prevailing world prices.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 19, 1924

Mahatma improves

Our Special Representative had Darshan of Mahatmaji this noon and wires out the statement of Srimathi Kasturibhai Gandhi to the country that there is no need for anxiety. Mahatmaji had less sleep last night, owing to pain in the wound consequent on the shifting of the drainage tube from its position. This was immediately attended to by Col. Dudley; where upon the pain subsiding, Mahatmaji dropped into sleep.

From Page One

9 killed as Pak. launches retaliatory air strikes

The drill, named "Velayat 1402," will include live fire from aircraft, drones and air defence systems.

Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Anwaar ul Haq Kakar, attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, cut his trip short to return home.

The Baloch Liberation Army, an ethnic separatist group that has operated in the region since 2000, said in a statement the strikes targeted and killed its people. "Pakistan has martyred innocent Baloch people," it said.

Pakistan's military described using "killer drones, rockets, loitering munitions and standoff weapons" in the attack. Standoff weapons are missiles fired from aircraft at a distance – likely meaning Pakistan's fighter jets did not enter Iranian airspace.

Pakistan's military also said the strikes hit targets associated with the Balochistan Liberation Front, though that group did not acknowledge the claim.

12 school students killed in Gujarat boat capsize

"Till now, 12 children and two teachers have died in the tragedy. One student, who was rescued, is undergoing treatment at SSG Hospital," said an official of the Harni police station.

National Disaster Response Force officials – who joined the search and rescue operation along with the Vadodara municipal corporation's fire brigade – said that there was sludge at the bottom of the lake which was making the rescue operation difficult.

Financial assistance

Mr. Patel directed the police and local authorities to take strict measures against those responsible for negligence that led to the deaths of innocent children and teachers. He announced compensation of ₹4 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 as assistance for the injured

The Prime Minister's Office also announced ₹2 lakh assistance for the families of those who died. "Distressed by the loss of lives due to a boat capsizing at the Harni lake in Vadodara. My thoughts are with the bereaved families in this hour of grief. May the injured recover soon. The local administration is providing all possible assistance to those affected. An *ex-gratia* of Rs. 2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given Rs. 50,000," the PMO posted on X.

President Droupadi Murmu also expressed her grief over the tragedy.

Navy helps drone-hit vessel in Gulf of Aden

The vessel is proceeding to the next port of call, it said in a statement on Thursday.

The Navy said Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) specialists from the warship boarded the vessel early on Thursday to inspect the damaged area and after a thorough inspection, they have "rendered the area safe for further transit."

As per marine traffic portal vesselfinder.com, *MV Genco Picardy*, a bulk carrier, departed Port of Safaga in Egypt on January 11 and was scheduled to arrive at Thoothukudi in Tamil Nadu in India on January 24.

The Indian Navy currently has around 12 warships deployed in the Arabian Sea area for anti-piracy and maritime security duties. Speaking on the sidelines of an event, Navy Chief Admiral R. Hari Kumar said they are deployed in the region to ensure that our national interests in the maritime domain are "preserved, protected, promoted and pursued." "So we have our own deployments. We have two ongoing operations. One anti-piracy operation and one anti-drone support for merchant shipping. Both these operations are under way," he stated.

This is the latest in a series of drone attacks or hijacking attempts of Indian-flagged or foreign-flagged vessels with Indian crew. Since the Israeli offensive in Gaza, there have been a series of attacks on merchant ships from Houthi rebels in Yemen in the Red Sea as well as the Arabian Sea, including few instances where Indian-crewed vessels headed to India were hit by drones, *MV Chem Pluto* and *MV Sai Baba*.

Analysing debris

Speaking in Hyderabad last week, Admiral Kumar said there were 35 drone attacks in the last 40 to 42 days on ships and the target was Israel-owned ships or those linked to Israel, and mainly in the Red Sea, the North Arabian Sea, and the Central Arabian Sea. He said the Navy had collected samples of debris from three vessels (which were attacked) and was examining them forensically to identify the origin of the attack.

In December, Malta-flagged tanker *MV Ruen*, with 18 crew onboard, was hijacked by Somali pirates approximately 700 miles from the Indian coast and the vessel is currently off the coast of Somalia.

In response to these incidents, the Indian Navy has substantially enhanced maritime surveillance efforts in Central and North Arabian Sea and augmented force levels. Task groups comprising destroyers and frigates have been deployed to undertake maritime security operations and render assistance to merchant vessels.

SC to hear pleas by Bilkis Bano case convicts for more time to surrender

The three convicts have cited ill-health and impending family or personal commitments to seek more time to surrender; the men were serving life sentences for the gang rape of a pregnant Bilkis Bano and the murder of her family members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday asked its Registry to seek orders from the Chief Justice of India to list on Friday the pleas of three of the 11 convicts in the Bilkis Bano case who have sought more time to surrender.

The top court, in its judgment on January 8, ordered the convicts to report back to jail after concluding that the remission of their life sentence by the Gujarat government in August 2022 was illegal.

Govindbhai Nai, Mitesh Chimanlal Bhatt and Ramesh Rupabhai Chandana have cited ill-health and impending family or personal commitments to extend the time to surrender.

Their pleas were mentioned before Justice B.V. Nagarathna on Thursday.

The *Bilkis Bano* judgment was delivered by a Bench of Justices Nagarathna and Ujjal Bhuyan.

INDIA, THE WOMEN OF INDIA STAND WITH
BILKIS TILL JUSTICE IS A REALITY, TILL HER LIFE & HER CHILDREN CA LIVE WITH
WE STAND WITH
more

Seeking justice: Activists hold placards in support of Bilkis Bano during a protest, in Bengaluru, on Thursday. PTI

Currently, Justice Nagarathna is heading a Bench including Justice Sanjay Karol.

Deadline to surrender

Justice Nagarathna asked the Registry to approach the Chief Justice of India for orders to reconstitute the Bench of herself and Justice Bhuyyan on January 19 and list the pleas before it as the deadline to surrender, according to the convicts' lawyers, draws to a close on January 20.

Nai has sought a month to arrange care for his aged parents and said he himself was unwell. Chandana said his son was getting married and sought six weeks. Bhatt also asked for six weeks to harvest his crops.

'Diabolical driven'

The 11 men were serving life sentences for the gang rape of a pregnant Ms. Bano, and the murder of her family members, including a two-month-old infant during the 2002 Gujarat riots.

The 251-page judgment had described the crimes of the men as "grotesque and diabolical driven by communal hatred".

The Supreme Court had made scathing remarks about the ruling BJP government in Gujarat for acting "in tandem" with the prisoners to order their early release after "usurping the power" to do so.

The judgment came as a blow to the Centre which had approved the men's premature release.

"A woman deserves respect howsoever high or low she may be otherwise considered in society or to whatever faith she may follow or any creed she may belong to. Can heinous crimes against women permit remission of the convicts by a reduction in their sentence and by granting them liberty?" Justice Nagarathna had observed in the judgment.

One soldier killed and two injured in a blast in Rajouri

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

One soldier was killed and two were injured in an explosion near the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri of the Pir Panjal valley. An official said the soldiers were hit by the explosion caused by the landmine when they "inadvertently stepped over it"in the Naushera Sector.

Meanwhile, the J&K Police attached the property of a local man accused of harbouring militants. "During the investigation, it had surfaced that Zahoor Ahmad Rather, son of Abdul Salam Rather, was working as a terrorist associate and was providing food, shelter, and other logistic support to killed terrorists identified as Asif Reshi alias Khubaib and Wakeel Ahmad Bhat alias Talha, at his residential house," the police said. It falls within the ambit of 'proceeds of terrorism' under Section 2(g), Section 25 of UA(P) Act 1967, the police said.

1990 attack: eyewitness names Malik as 'shooter'

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

R. Rajeshwar Singh, a former Indian Air Force (IAF) staffer, also an eyewitness in the 1990 attack that left four IAF officials dead on January 25, 1990, in Srinagar's Rawalpora, on Thursday identified Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) chief Yasin Malik as the shooter in his statement made before a special court in Jammu.

"The prime eyewitness, who sustained four bullet injuries himself [in the attack], categorically and specifically identified Malik as one who opened the fire [at the IAF officials]. This is an important development in the case," Monika Kohli, Chief Prosecutor, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), told *The Hindu*.

The prosecution is likely to seek the death penalty in the case on the basis of fresh statements made by the eyewitness.

Jatinder Singh Jamwal, presiding officer of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities court, fixed February 15 and 16, 2024 as the next date of hearing.

4 killed in fresh Manipur violence, 3 BSF personnel injured in mob attack

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI/IMPHAL

A man and his son were among four persons killed, while seven, including three Border Security Force personnel, were injured in separate incidents of violence in Manipur since Wednesday night.

Officials in Bishnupur district said unidentified armed men swooped down on Ningthoukhong Kha-Khunou, a Meitei village, and shot dead three persons on Thursday. The victims were identified as Thiyam Somen, 54, and Oinam Bamoijao, 61, and his son Oinam Manitomba.

The village is close to Churachandpur district.

Unidentified gunmen also attacked a Meitei village in the Kangchup area of the Imphal West district bordering Kangpokpi district around 11 p.m. on Wednesday. A 26-year-old village defence volunteer was killed. Another villager sustained bullet wounds.

On Wednesday night, three BSF personnel sustained bullet injuries after a mob tried to storm the Thoubal district police headquarters demanding reinforcement in Moreh town bordering Myanmar to counter the "attacks by extremists on the security forces there". An indefinite curfew was subsequently clamped in the district.

Conflict zone: Police personnel fired tear gas towards women who came to meet the Manipur CM in Imphal, on Thursday. PTI

The Thoubal police said the mob "targeted the 3rd Indian Reserve Battalion headquarters at Khangabok" but the "security forces repelled them using the minimum necessary force". The mob also "attempted to breach the Thoubal police headquarters, prompting the security forces to use legal force", the police said. The injured BSF men – assistant sub-inspectors Sobram Singh and Ramji and constable Gourav Kumar – are undergoing treatment.

In yet another attack on Wednesday night, three police riflemen – K. Premananda, Mohammad Abdul Hasim, and Songsuathui Aimol – were injured when gunmen attacked their camp in Moreh.

Meanwhile, scores of women held protest rallies across the Imphal Valley districts, asking the Centre to hand over the charge of the Unified Command to Chief Minister Nongthombam Biren Singh.

Gujarat 'encounters': SC to look into fate of Justice Bedi report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday agreed to hear arguments on the road ahead for a report submitted confidentially by a committee chaired by former top court judge, Justice H.S. Bedi, on several police "encounters" in Gujarat which happened to coincide with the chief ministerial tenure of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

A Bench of Justices B.R. Gavai and Sandeep Mehta ordered the petition filed by lyricist Javed Akhtar and journalist B.G. Varghese to be listed for hearing after two weeks.

The Justice Bedi report, submitted to the apex court in 2018, had investigated 17 police encounters which occurred between 2002 and 2007 in Gujarat. The committee was constituted by the court in 2012. The committee had reportedly recommended the prosecution of police officers in three out of the 17 cases probed by it. In its final report, Justice Bedi had reportedly said three persons were *prima facie* killed in "fake" encounters.

In January 2019, the apex court had refused the State government's request to keep the report confidential. The court had ordered copies to be shared with the petitioner side and Gujarat. However, the State government had raised objections in 2019. The same reservations were raised by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for Gujarat, on Thursday.

'Coaching centres cannot enrol students below 16 years of age'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Coaching centres cannot enrol students below 16 years of age, make misleading promises and guarantee rank or good marks, according to new guidelines announced by the Ministry of Education.

The guidelines have been framed to address the need for a legal framework and manage the unregulated growth of private coaching centres. It comes following complaints received by the government.

"No coaching centre shall engage tutors having qualifications less than graduation," the guidelines said. "Coaching centres shall have a website with updated details of the qualification of tutors, courses/curriculum, duration of completion, hostel facilities, and the fees being charged," it stated.

The coaching centres should also take steps for the mental well-being of students.

The government has proposed registration of new and existing centres within three months after the guidelines come into effect.

Sub-categorisation of SCs: panel to look into even distribution of benefits

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Madiga community has been struggling since 1994 for sub-categorisation of SCs

The Union government has formed a five-member committee of Secretaries, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary, to evaluate and work out a method for the equitable distribution of benefits, schemes and initiatives to the most backward communities amongst the over 1,200 Scheduled Castes (SCs) across the country, that have been crowded out by relatively forward and dominant ones. This comes in the backdrop of PM Narendra Modi's promise to look into the demand for sub-categorisation of SCs as raised by the Madiga community in the run-up to the Telangana Assembly election.

Further, this move comes just as a seven-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court is set to start hearing the question of whether sub-categorisation among SCs and Scheduled Tribes (STs) is at all permissible. While the court hearing will be on the constitutionality of sub-categorisation among SCs for the purpose of breaking up the reservation in jobs and education set aside for them, the government panel will be looking into "other ways to take care of their grievances", *The Hindu* has learnt.

The committee will look at strategies like special initiatives, focusing existing schemes towards them, etc.

The committee was formed earlier this month and comprises the Secretaries of the Home Ministry, Law Ministry, Tribal Affairs Ministry, and Social Justice Ministry.

The Madiga community has been struggling since 1994 for the sub-categorisation of SCs and it was this demand that first led to the formation of the Justice P. Ramachandra Raju Commission in 1996 and later a National Commission in 2007 – both of which had concluded that there could be ways to do this.

In the last two decades, multiple States like Punjab, Bihar, and Tamil Nadu have tried to bring in reservation laws at the State level in a bid to sub-categorise SCs and decide on a separate quantum of reservation for these subcategories within the umbrella of SCs. However, all plans are held up in court.

According to legal experts, nothing in the Constitution prohibits the Parliament from sub-categorising SCs or STs but what the government would need to justify this move would be a 100% count of all castes – a caste census of each community and sub-community and their respective socio-economic data. This can be the only empirical basis on which the government can justify sub-categorisation of benefits and how much extra share of benefits each community needs, Supreme Court advocate Mohan Gopal has argued.

APPEAL

Ms.Fariya Rehan, Daughter of Rehan Gani 3 years admitted in Christian Medical College, Ranipet is suffering from Thalassemia Major. This is a type of Life-Threatening Blood Disorder. The best option for her would be to undergo Allogeneic Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of PBSCT at this hospital is approximately **Rs.15,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the girl. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Fariy Rehan, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No.20000913487, State Bank of India, R.A.Puram and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, You can donate through Google pay No.9884607377, UPI Id: savepoorlives@oksbi. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No.A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground floor, Old No.76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600028. Contact No.044-42044165 & 044-35691848, Mobile: 9884607377 Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com** Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

India says it hopes to resolve issue of troops in Maldives

MEA spokesperson says discussions still going on, next round of India-Maldives high-level talks to be held soon; declines to comment on the March 15 deadline to withdraw troops; says India is committed to development projects on the islands

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India on Thursday said it continued to hope for a resolution of the tussle with the Maldives over stationing of Indian troops on the islands, despite the Maldivian government setting a deadline of March 15 for their withdrawal.

Answering a number of questions about the tensions between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson said India remains "committed" to its partnership with the Maldives. He said discussions between officials who were part of "High-Level Core Group" talks held in Male on January 14 would continue "soon", when a Maldivian delegation travels to India.

"Both sides held discussions on finding mutually workable solutions to enable continued operation of Indian aviation platforms that provide humanitarian and medevac services to the Maldivian people," said spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal, referring to a press release issued by the MEA on January 14. "The next visit is due to be held in India to take discussions forward," Mr. Jaiswal added, but did not announce a date for the talks.

Seeking consensus: External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met his Maldives counterpart Moosa Zameer in Kampala on Thursday. PTI

Deadline looms

However, when asked pointedly about the Maldives deadline, the MEA spokesperson declined to respond, repeating that the India-Maldives talks about enabling continued operation of the aircraft were an "ongoing discussion".

The spokesperson also declined to respond to Mr. Muizzu's latest comments on his return from Beijing this week, believed to be aimed at India, where he said the Maldives "cannot be bullied" by bigger countries.

More is expected to be heard on Mr. Muizzu's position during his address to Parliament due to be held on February 5.

The date for the removal of troops is significant, as the next Maldives Majlis, or parliamentary, elections are due to be held on March 17, especially important for Mr. Muizzu after his ruling coalition lost the Male Mayoral election this week.

Some reports had said Mr. Muizzu, who has travelled to Turkey, the UAE and China since he was sworn in, had originally requested a visit to New Delhi, which was not accepted by the Indian government.

Mr. Muizzu is the first Maldivian President not to make his first visit abroad to India.

Mr. Jaiswal did not deny the reports of the "rebuff" by India, saying only that "both India and Maldives remain engaged to facilitate high-level visits with a constructive agenda at mutually convenient dates and times".

The tussle over the troops has also led to questions about the future of nearly 50 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs), and major infrastructure projects including a 2021 agreement for a Coast Guard Harbour project in Uthara Thila Failu that was signed by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and then-Maldives Defence Minister Marya Didi, and are to be built by India.

"We remain committed to taking our development projects forward. We have been an important partner of the Maldives and we are committed to doing all that we can on development projects according to the Maldives' priorities," Mr. Jaiswal said, in response to questions about whether India was worried about taking them forward.

(With inputs from Meera Srinivasan)

Cong. raps govt. over report on attempted cut in State funds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The party was reacting to a report on NITI Aayog CEO's recent remarks on Central tax share

Reacting to a news report on NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam's remarks that the Narendra Modi government, immediately after coming to power in 2014, tried to significantly cut funds allocated to the States, the Congress on Thursday accused the government of "over-centralisation, [trying to gain] absolute control and dismantling India's federalism".

Mr. Subramanyam, during a seminar on financial reporting in India organised by the Centre for Social Economic Progress, said the 14th Finance Commission had recommended a 42% share of Central taxes for the States, but the Modi government wanted to keep it down to 33%.

The policy think tank's CEO further said that the Prime Minister tried "off-record parley" to get the Chairman of the Finance Commission, Y.V. Reddy, to pare down his recommendations on the revenue share. Mr. Reddy was, however, unyielding, the report by the Reporters' Collective published in *Al Jazeera* said.

In a post on X, Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said, "When the Prime Minister failed in this endeavour, his government 'was forced to hastily redo its maiden full Budget in 48 hours and slash funding' for social welfare programmes."

Mr. Ramesh also underlined Mr. Subramanyam's comment that the Modi government's Budget claims are "covered in layers and layers of attempts to cover the truth".

"This blatant disregard for a Constitutional body exposes the Prime Minister's real *niyat*: over centralisation, absolute control and the dismantling of India's federalism," Mr. Ramesh added.

NITI Aayog report on poverty is not reliable: Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday questioned the reliability of a NITI Aayog report which claimed that 24.82 crore people have moved out of "multidimensional poverty" in India in nine years till 2022-23, saying that the statistics do not correlate to other indices such as private consumption growth which has slowed down to 4.4% this fiscal versus 7.1% in the last.

Addressing a press conference at the Congress headquarters, party spokesperson Supriya Shrinate alleged that it was aimed at reducing the welfare cover, especially the free ration provided to 80 crore citizens.

Ms. Shrinate also questioned its methodology, underlining that it was not endorsed by any third party such as the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund.

"We don't know the sample size or who was surveyed," Ms. Shrinate added.

Central govt. offices to remain shut for half day on Jan. 22

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Thursday announced a half-day closure of all its offices on Monday, January 22, to "enable" its employees to participate in the 'Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha' celebrations.

"The Ram Lalla Pran Pratishtha at Ayodhya will be celebrated on 22nd January, 2024 across India. To enable employees to participate in the celebrations, it has been decided that all Central Government Offices, Central Institutions and Central Industrial Establishments throughout India will be closed for half day till 1430 hours [2.30 p.m.] on 22nd January, 2024. All Ministries/Departments of Government of India may bring the above decision to the notice of all concerned," a circular issued by the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT) said.

Banks included

The order will apply to all public sector banks, financial institutions, regional rural banks, and public insurers as well. The Finance Ministry has issued a communique in this regard to all public sector banks and heads of financial institutions.

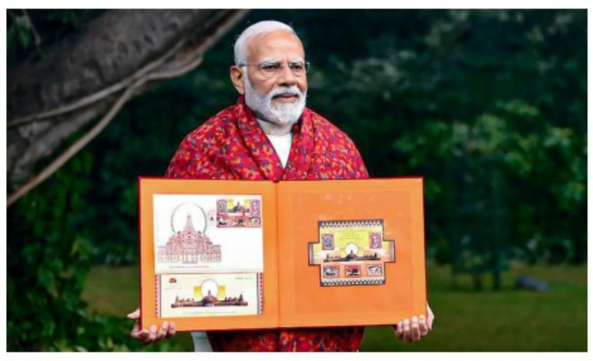
PM releases postage stamps on Ram Temple, stamp book on Ramayana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi released commemorative postage stamps on the Ram temple on Thursday, along with a book of stamps on the Ramayana from around the world.

"These tickets are the smallest form of history books, artefacts and historical sites and serve as a miniature form of epics and great ideas," Mr. Modi said in a video message.

Quoting Maharishi Valmiki, the author of the Ramayana, the Prime Minister said that the epic and Lord Ram's personality "will live on among people as long as there are mountains and rivers on earth".



Marking the event: The components of the stamps' design include the Ram temple and the Saryu River flowing through Ayodhya. PTI

Officials said the components of the design include the under-construction Ram Temple, the *chaupai* – '*Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari*', the Saryu river flowing through Ayodhya, and the sculptures in and around the temple.

"Ramayana gives the message of the victory of love and teaches people sacrifice, unity, and bravery in the most difficult of times while connecting humanity," Mr. Modi said, adding that this was the reason the epic has been a centre of global attraction and is looked at with respect everywhere.

International appeal

The 48-page stamp book includes stamps issued by more than 20 countries, including the U.S., New Zealand, Singapore, Canada, Cambodia, and organisations such as the UN.

"Many countries have issued postage stamps on Lord Ram," Mr. Modi noted, adding that Lord Ram has been an equally great icon for many outside India and has had a deep impact on different civilisations.

Kejriwal skips fourth summons from ED in excise policy case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal skipped the fourth summons from the Enforcement Directorate (ED) to appear before the agency on Thursday for questioning in connection with the Delhi excise policy case. He had skipped all three previous summons issued by the probe agency.

"All four notices sent to me [by the ED] are illegal and invalid in the eyes of the law. Whenever such general, non-specific notices were sent by the ED in the past, they were quashed and declared invalid by courts. These notices are being sent as part of a political conspiracy," Mr. Kejriwal told pressperssons. He said that inquiry into the case has been going on for two years based on "fake" allegations, but the agency has found no proof so far.

"BJP leaders are saying that Kejriwal will be arrested. How do BJP leaders know that I will be arrested? It is because the BJP is running the ED. All these summons are being sent to stop Kejriwal from campaigning for the Lok Sabha election," he said, before leaving for Goa for election-related work.

Plea seeks survey of Shahi Idgah mosque

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

A plea has been moved in the Allahabad High Court seeking the appointment of a revenue surveyor to inspect the premises of the Shahi Idgah mosque, which stands next to the Krishna Janmabhoomi temple in Mathura, to ascertain the mosque's actual location.

The development follows a Supreme Court order staying the execution of a High Court directive to appoint a commissioner to survey the mosque.

The plea moved by advocates Vishnu Shankar Jain and Prabhash Pandey at the High Court on January 16 was taken on record by the Bench of Justice Mayank Kumar Jain, who is also hearing a batch of cases pertaining to the Krishna Janmabhoomi-Shahi Idgah dispute. The matter will come up for hearing on January 30.

The application seeks a revenue survey report of the mosque to know whether it falls within the area of 13.37 acres of land that is at the centre of the dispute.

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA, "e"- PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
E-mail : ceroads.bbsr@gmail.com
Bid Identification No. CE-DPI & R-35 / 2023-24

1. The Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for Road work as mentioned below:
2. Nature of work : **Road works**
3. No. of work : **4 Nos.**
4. Tender Paper Cost : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of Contractor : **A Class / Special Class / Super Class**
6. Available of bid document in the website. : From **10.00 A.M. of 22.01.2024** to **4.30 PM of 05.02.2024.**
7. Date of opening of Bid : **Dt.05.02.2024 at 4.35 P.M.**
8. The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : **https://tenderodisha.gov.in** . Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Engineer (DPI & Roads), Odisha (I/C).
B-1631 : OIPR-34111/11/0056/2324

माध्यमिक शिक्षा बोर्ड, राजस्थान, अजमेर
E-Tender Notice providing services of Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system
बोर्ड परीक्षा 2024 के लिए परीक्षा केन्द्रों एवं उत्तर पुस्तिका संग्रहण केन्द्रों पर Turnkey Basis पर Live CCTV Cameras Surveillance system हेतु खुली निविदा जिसकी अनुमानित लागत 3 करोड़ रूपये है, दिनांक 18.01.2024 से दिनांक 09.02.2024 अपराह्न 3.00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा प्रपत्र विस्तृत विवरण बोर्ड वेबसाईट http://rajeduboard.rajasthan.gov.in एवं राज्य सरकार उपापन पोर्टल http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in से डाउनलोड कर प्राप्त किये जा सकते हैं। UBN NO SEB2324SLOB00028
सचिव

KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - E-TENDER NOTICE
Office of the Chief Engineer (REES & SOURA) & Chief Safety Commissioner
Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645021_1, Last date - 05.02.2024, 03.00 pm
Office of the Chief Engineer Consultancy Wing, Vydyuthi Bhavanam, Thiruvananthapuram.
E-Tender ID : 2024_KSEB_645591_1, Last date - 29.01.2024, 03.00 pm
Visit www.etenders.kerala.gov.in and www.kseb.in
Ref: PR /MC1/F324/ E-Tender/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : 199/2023-24/PHC/KNR (Re-Tender) KIIFB - WSS to Mattannur and Iritty Municipalities - Phase II - Package II - Distribution system - Iritty Municipality - Providing new Distribution System in Iritty Municipality and providing FHTCs - Pipe line work. **EMD** : Rs. 500000, **Tender fee** : Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 25-01-2024 03:00:pm, **Phone** : 04972705902
Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-2082-2023-24 PH Circle, Kannur

ओएनजीसी ONGC **ONGC** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd.
EASTERN OFFSHORE ASSET, KAKINADA (A.P.)
Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC)
Hiring of services for maintenance painting of OGT plant, Mallavaram, HPHT Asset
ONGC, Eastern Offshore Asset, Kakinada invites for submission of Pre-Qualification Criteria (PQC) documents from reputed and interested bidders having **experience in providing supply and application of painting work of Crude Oil / Natural Gas process plants / petro-chemical plants/ refineries/gas based power plants/fertilizer plants at OGT plant Mallavaram, Kakinada District A.P,India . Last date for receipt of PQC Document: 21 days from the date of publishing of PQC. Note:** For further details and PQC document, please logon to our website: **https://tenders.ongc.co.in**. Prospective vendors having the required capability may submit the documents through email: **spgkakinada@ongc.co.in**. In case of any queries, **CGM (P)**, mail: **spgkakinada@ongc.co.in** may be contacted.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : **(1)** 1st Re Etender No.WRD/KWACE(SR)/TR/17025/2022_26_2_1/1, **(2)** WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/7902/2022_5_7_6/RC 1/1 **(3)** 1st Re E-Tender No WRD/KWACE (SR)/TR/7902/2022_26_6_5/1. JJM - CWSS to Mundakayam, Koruthode Pts - Design and Construction of Reservoirs, Boosting Stations, Providing Pumpsets, Laying Pipelines and providing FHTC, (2) CWSS to 13 Pts based on Malankara Reservoir - Moonilavu Pt - Providing Transmission Mains, Construction of Service Reservoirs, Providing Distribution Networks and FHTCs (3) CWSS to 13 Pts based on Malankara Reservoir-Meenachil Pt - (1) Supply & laying of 300/250/200/150/100 mm Transmission/Distribution mains from Service Reservoirs (2) Design and construction of OHSRs (3) Providing Distribution networks and FHTCs in Meenachil Pt.
EMD : Rs. 5,00,000/-. **Tender fee** : Rs. 16540 + (2978), **Last Date for submitting Tender** : 27-01-2024 03:00:pm
Phone : 0481 2562745, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
KWA-JB-GL-6-2093-2023-24 Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kottayam

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice (Paper Notification)
TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for procurement of (a) 25 KVA 3- Phase CSP Aluminium Wound Distribution Transformers with BIS Energy Efficiency Level-2 Star 2 (b) 8.0 m/140 kgs PSCC Poles to various circles of Medak store (C) FRP Supporting clamps suitable for 11 KV three phase HG Fuse Sets of Medak stores (d) Printer Cartridges for use in corporate office, TSSPDCL on e-tender platform. For further details of each item above, please visit **www.tssouthernpower.com, www.tender.telangana.gov.in**
Phone:040-23431360, 1033,1035, 1026
DIPR No.9517-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2023-24 Dt. 18.01.2024 Sd/- CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&MM)

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road
Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383
website : www.kiadb.in
No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-35/502/2023-24 Date:18.01.2024
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item rate Tenders under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I & above (Electrical) issued from KCEI, Government of Karnataka who have got adequate financial resources, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the following works of (1) Arranging HT Power Supply to Pumphouse (TTP) at Hi-Tech Defense & Aerospace Park, Phase-I, Devenahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District. (2) Providing LED Street Lights to the roads of Kotur-Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **03.02.2024** upto **04:30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/3113/Zen/2023-24 Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

Government of Telangana
HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY & SEWERAGE BOARD
O/o. Chief General Manager (Engg), Operation & Maint. Circle No. II, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad. T.S
No : 1031/CGM/O&M.C.II/DGM(E)/2023-2024, Dated : 18.01.2024
PRESS NOTIFICATION
HMWSSB desires for **Procurement of Mini Jetting, Rodding, Grabber with Hopper Sewer Cleaning Machine** and inviting quotations from the reputed manufacturers of Sewer Cleaning Machines who have experience in supplying similar type vehicles as per the specifications.
The interested Manufacturers shall submit their Sealed Quotations along with Manufacturer Certificate and Experience Certificate on **Date : 22.01.2024 before 5.00 PM** in O/o. Chief General Manager (Engg), Operation & Maint. Circle No. II, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad. ***For further details and detailed specifications of the Mini Sewer Cleaning Machine and Chassis can be obtained from office of the Chief General Manager (Engg), O&M Circle-II, HMWS&SB, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad during office hours.***
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Engg), O&MC No. II, S.R. Nagar, Hyderabad. T.S

Water Resources Department
ADVANCED CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT(ACIWRM)
1/1, First Floor, KSFC Bhavan, Thimmaiah Road, Bengaluru–560052
Phone no: 080 22262042 / 43 e-mail: registrar@aciwrm.org
Notification No: ACIWRM/R-CE/KERS-Pkg1/2023-24/775 Date: 18.01.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER
On behalf of Government of Karnataka, WRD, The Registrar/Chief Engineer, (ACIWRM), invites Tender from eligible contractors through KPP Portal for the work of **"Upgradation of Existing Seminar / Training halls, improvements to existing labs and physical models and instrumentations and other allied works at KERS, Krishnarajasagara, Mandya" Amount put to tender : Rs. 409.00 Lakhs**
The above tender is invited in **Two cover system,** Downloading tender documents through KPP-Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** is available from **Dt:19.01.2024 from 11.00 a.m.** onwards till **22.02.2024 upto 5:00 p.m.** Any changes/updates will be notified through KPP-Portal only. For more details contact the office of the undersigned on working days during office hours and also through mail **registrar@aciwrm.org.**
Sd/-
DIPR/CP/RO3096/AAPL/2023-24 Registrar/Chief Engineer
ACIWRM Bengaluru

INBRIEF

Congress issues show-cause notice to party spokesperson

The Congress issued a show-cause notice to party spokesperson Alok Sharma on Thursday for alleging that former Madhya Pradesh Congress chief Kamal Nath took a series of actions that arouse suspicion that he had an "understanding" with the BJP and didn't want Congress to win the Assembly election in M.P. "These statements demonstrate an attempt to undermine the party," Pawan Khera, chairman of Media and Publicity, said in his letter to Mr. Sharma.

Lalu's kin allegedly beat up govt. employee in Patna

Rashtriya Janata Dal chief Lalu Prasad's relatives allegedly beat up a Bihar government employee in Patna on Tuesday. He was later referred to Delhi for better medical attention. The police have lodged a complaint against Tanuj Yadav and Nayan Yadav, Mr. Yadav's grand-nephews. The BJP alleged that it was a "return of jungle Raj" in the State, while Deputy CM and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav said that action would be taken against "whosoever was found responsible".

GM crops will make edible oil cheaper: govt.

In submission before Supreme Court, Centre says GM oil has been used in India for decades now and growing oil seeds indigenously will help reduce prices; petitioners submit that regulatory system under Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee is riddled with conflict of interest

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday said it only wanted what was good for India even as the government argued that growing genetically modified (GM) crops such as mustard would make quality edible oil cheaper for the common man and benefit the national interest by reducing foreign dependence.

"Mustard is the most used edible oil. GM oil has been used in India for decades now... What we are trying to do is make edible oil cheaper for the common man by growing oil seeds indigenously... 50% to 60% of edible oil is imported. Interests which are against India gaining food security and reducing foreign dependence are behind these PILs [public interest litigation petitions] against GM Mustard..." Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, submitted in the Supreme Court.

"We want what is good for India. We are not here to poke holes," a Bench of Justices B.V. Nagarathna and Sanjay Karol said.

Increasing demand

Mr. Mehta submitted statistics of the Directorate of Economic and Statistics of the Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare to prove an increasing demand for edible oil with a burgeoning population.

The government said the total edible oil demand of India was 24.6 million tonnes (2020-21) with domestic availability of 11.1 million tonnes (2020-21).

In 2020-21, 13.45 million tonnes (54%) of the total edible oil demand was met through import estimated at about ₹1,15,000 crore, which included palm oil (57%), soybean oil (22%), sunflower oil (15%) and a small quantity of canola quality mustard oil.

In 2022-23, 155.33 lakh tonnes (55.76%) of the total edible oil demand was met through import.

Seeking self-reliance: Women carry fodder for their cattle through a mustard field on the outskirts of Srinagar. FILE PHOTO

"So, we are eating more fried items, right," Justice Nagarathna asked on a lighter note.

Mr. Mehta and Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati said while the PIL petitioners had highlighted environmental damage allegedly caused by the open field testing of GM crops, the court had to consider the government's duty to take care of the people's right to food.

"Edible oil is a daily food commodity used in the country. The PIL petitioners are depending on some half-baked study done 14 years ago to raise concern about environmental damage. The court should look at the fundamental right of people to access basic food consumed every day at a cheaper price," Mr. Mehta argued.

He said the open field testing of GM crops were allotted on eight sites of 600 sq. m each.

"GM seeds were sown in six of the sites. It is not that acres of open fields are used for testing. The testing is done in controlled circumstances and strictly according to statutory regime under expert guidance."

The petitioners, Gene Campaign and activist Aruna Rodrigues, have challenged the government move to commercially release Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11 (DMH-11), a genetically engineered variant of mustard.

"But DMH 11 has shown increased yield per hectare of 25% to 30%... In India, annual economic losses of crops due to weeds is 11 billion USD, ie, ₹1 lakh crore. Annual value of herbicide currently used in India is ₹4,500 crores," Mr. Mehta reasoned.

Conflict of interest

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for Ms. Rodrigues, had submitted that the regulatory system under the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), which cleared the environmental release of DMH-11, was "horrendous" and riddled with conflict of interest. He had said that India hosted 5,477 varieties of mustard, which would be at risk by the GM variety.

Mr. Mehta said India imported about 55,000 tonnes of Canola oil largely from GM canola seeds. Similarly, nearly 2.8 lakh tonnes of soybean oil is imported annually. Most exporting countries such as Argentina, the U.S., Brazil, and Canada cultivate GM soybean. Globally around 80% of soybean growing is GM soybean.

Seat-sharing talks hit a roadblock in U.P. as Cong. 'unhappy' with SP offer

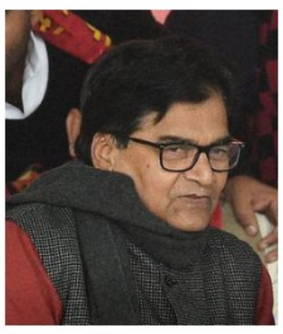
Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The negotiations between the Congress and the Samajwadi Party, for seat-sharing in Uttar Pradesh in the upcoming Lok Sabha election, have hit an impasse. According to sources, at the end of the third round of talks which concluded on Thursday, the SP is offering fewer than 10 seats, a tally which the Congress finds unacceptable.

SP secretary-general Ramgopal Yadav, who led the party in the talks, has told the Congress's National Alliance Committee that, for any further concessions, the Congress top leadership must directly connect with SP president Akhilesh Yadav.

According to sources, neither the Congress general secretary in charge of U.P. Avinash Pande nor the party's State president Ajay Rai were present at the meeting.

The Congress began the negotiations by presenting a list of 15 top priority



Ramgopal Yadav

seats, which was distilled based on their performance in the past few general elections. The SP's starting point, on the other hand, was that the Congress deserved to stake its claim in only four seats. "The Congress won Rae Bareli and was second in Amethi, Fatehpur Sikri, and Kanpur. So if you are leaning on cold statistics, then we can concede only four seats," a senior SP leader told *The Hindu*.

Mr. Rai, the Congress State chief, is keen on fighting from Balia, a seat that the SP is not willing to concede. The SP, on its part, has demanded that the Congress should give it a "token representation" in Madhya Pradesh, arguing that this is crucial for two reasons. One, it will bring to a close the SP-Congress conflict from the recent M.P. Assembly election. Second, the SP argues that their presence in M.P. will help in countering the BJP's newly appointed Chief Minister Mohan Yadav.

According to a senior Congress leader, the SP's offer does not take into account the changed political situation, especially the fact that the Congress is consolidating its presence among minority groups, and is therefore not acceptable.

Meanwhile, despite Bahujan Samaj Party supremo Mayawati's public stand of going solo in the 2024 election, the Congress has kept the door open for her. "She is also under pressure from her leaders and cadre to ally with us. But so far, she has made very unreasonable claims, asking for seats in three States," a leader involved in the talks said.

Himanta 'the most corrupt Chief Minister' in the country, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

In one of his sharpest attacks on Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday called Mr. Sarma "the most corrupt Chief Minister" in the country, running the "most corrupt" government.

Hitting back, Mr. Sarma called the Gandhi family the most corrupt family and described the Nyay Yatra as "*miya*" yatra, a term used to refer to Bengali Muslims whose roots are from Bangladesh.

As the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra entered Assam, the Congress leader lashed out at the State government and the Chief Minister.

Hitting hard: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra in Jorhat on Thursday. PTI

"I don't have to tell you that perhaps the most corrupt Chief Minister of India is the Assam Chief Minister," Mr. Gandhi said in a public speech at Jorhat.

"Just because he can be bought with money, he [Mr. Sarma] thinks he can buy the people of Assam with money. He is wrong as the people of Assam don't have a price tag," the Congress leader added.

Mr. Gandhi also alleged that be the wife or the children, every member of the Chief Minister's family was involved in one or other corruption case.

This is the strongest attack by Mr. Gandhi on Mr. Sarma, who had quit the Congress to join the BJP in 2015 after a prolonged leadership tussle.

Bangladesh Minister to visit India

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

The newly appointed Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Hasan Mahmud, is expected to visit India for three days from February 7 in what will be his first visit abroad since taking charge. The Minister earlier visited India as Information Minister in the previous Sheikh Hasina government.

"It's likely to be a three-day visit," he told pressperson in Dhaka on Thursday. He said the agenda was being worked on and that the visit followed an invitation by his counterpart, S. Jaishankar.

Mr. Jaishankar earlier congratulated Mr. Mahmud after he was appointed, and said, "Look forward to working together to further deepen the India-Bangladesh Maitri."

Responding to the congratulatory remarks posted on X, Mr. Mahmud said, "Thank you very much. I look forward to working together." The new Minister was earlier met by the Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma.

Mr. Mahmud was part of an Awami League delegation that visited New Delhi ahead of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's arrival for the G-20 summit last September.

Mr. Mahmud who hails from Chittagong in the southeast of Bangladesh has seen a steady rise in his public profile over the past two decades.

Doctors asked to state reason while advising antimicrobials

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The Union Health Ministry has asked doctors to make it a mandatory practice to write the indication (reason/justification) while prescribing antimicrobials, and directed pharmacists to stop over-the-counter sale of antibiotics, and sell them only with the prescription of a qualified doctor.

The Ministry's latest direction cites the misuse and overuse of antimicrobials, which it said is one of the main drivers of antimicrobial resistance (AMR).

The letter issued by the Ministry to all medical and pharmacist associations and doctors of medical colleges said that it is estimated bacterial AMR is directly responsible for 1.27 million global deaths in 2019.

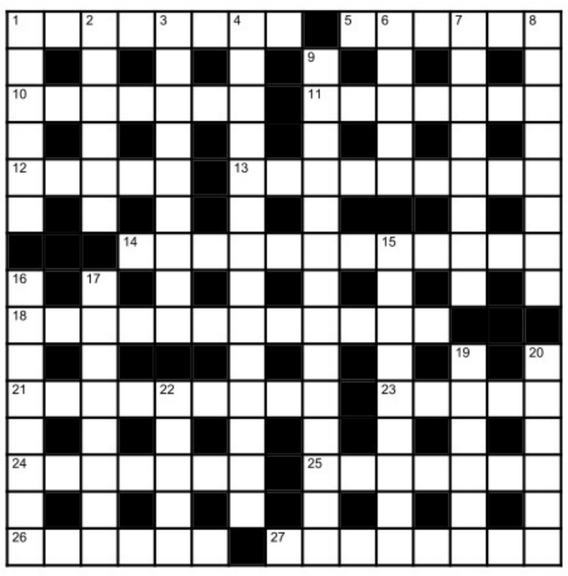
Stating that AMR puts many of the gains of modern medicine at risk, the Ministry said that misuse and overuse of antimicrobials is one of the main drivers in the development of drug-resistant pathogens.

TH CROSSWORD + 14075

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Threw out fool over obscenity in retreat (3,3,2)
5 Boat containing each aquatic mammal (3,3)
10 Simpleton taking small whip for wild horse (7)
11 Withdraws from California, crushed by payments (7)
12 Dance in Sunburn Goa endlessly (5)
13 New nurse putting away covers, tidying up (9)
14 Poet lay in compound, inhaling dope eagerly (12)
18 Sick lad fainted - he's critical! (4-3-5)
21 What electrician might do to hide? (2,2,5)
23 Cries of alarm after river stinks (5)
24 Bishop is man conducting appropriate religious ceremony (7)
25 Dropping off a container filled with money (7)
26 Kiss in corner, removing top - that's too much (6)
27 Sceptics start to analyse robbery in back street (8)

Down

1 Reproductive cell is round, having covering of epiblast (6)
2 Tea is fantastic, containing new infusion of herbs (6)
3 What a Roman is concealing about female lover (9)
4 Men getting dirt about crooked director in case revealing Mafia's activities (9,5)
6 Host starts to enthral massive crowd expecting entertainment (5)
7 Deliberate deception, rule broken by team (8)
8 Smart alecs use wigs perhaps to retain a little youthfulness (4,4)
9 Floating bank rate rose, he's upset (5,4,5)
15 Argue heatedly to amend abominable act on essence of citizenship (9)
16 Exotic belle hugging one soldier is desirable (8)
17 Chief in workplace ignoring point - it's not relevant to the current discussion (3-5)
19 Brilliance shown by one in class (6)
20 Members of Native American people thus returned to welcome oracle (6)
22 Rewrites in most ideal retreat (5)

SUDOKU

6				3		4		
4	7	2						
	1	5				6	7	
		4			3		9	
			1	4	9			
	2		6			5		
	5	6				8	3	
						7	6	1
		3		1				4

No.SS6042 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	S	T	A	B	I	N	T	H	E	B	A	C	K	
		O		E		I		A		E		E		
R	O	P	E	D		N	A	R	R	A	T	I	O	N
E		S		O		O		V		D		L		E
V	I	E	W	F	I	N	D	E	R		D	I	S	C
E		E		R				S		H		D		K
R	E	D	C	O	A	T		T	R	A	C	H	E	A
B				S		H		E		R				N
E	X	T	R	E	M	E		R	U	M	B	A	E	D
R		R		S		R				O		D		C
A	R	U	M		W	E	L	L	I	N	E	V	E	R
T		F		S		W		E		I		A		O
E	F	F	E	C	T	I	V	E		O	W	N	U	P
		L		U		T		D		U		C		
	B	E	A	T	T	H	E	S	Y	S	T	E	M	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	9	7	1	3	2	4	8	5
1	3	8	5	7	4	9	2	6
2	5	4	6	9	8	7	1	3
7	4	1	2	8	5	3	6	9
5	8	3	9	4	6	2	7	1
9	2	6	7	1	3	8	5	4
3	6	5	8	2	9	1	4	7
8	7	9	4	5	1	6	3	2
4	1	2	3	6	7	5	9	8

FAITH

The Gajendra episode

Valmiki Ramayana has a special merit, because the events described in it were first-hand reports by Valmiki, who lived at the same time as Rama. So Valmiki Ramayana is considered the authentic account of the Rama avatara. But the verses about Rama, which we find in the Nalayira Divya Prabandham are more important. That is because Valmiki had a vision of the events in Rama's life through the blessings of Brahma. But the Azhvars were blessed by Lord Narayana Himself. That gives more value to their words, explained M.A. Venkatakrishnan in a discourse.

The Azhvars sang not only about the 10 avataras that are widely known, but about His other avataras too. His arrival to save Gajendra, the elephant, is one such avatara, which the Azhvars have praised. What did Gajendra say that made the Lord hurry to his aid? Imagine someone in pain. All such a person can say is, "Aah." Even if the elephant had just expressed its pain through an 'aah,' He would still have come. That is because 'a' signifies Vishnu. Thirumangai Azhvar in a pasuram about the Gajendra episode elaborates on Gajendra's cry for help. Gajendra calls out to Narayana, the One reclining on the serpent bed, and pleads for release from its misery. The entire pasuram is an explanation of akara sabda. The pasuram highlights the role of Vishnu as the protector.

UNITED NATIONS

Palestinians die in hospitals as the wounded overwhelm doctors: UN

GETTY IMAGES

Palestinians are dying every day in Gaza's overwhelmed remaining hospitals which can't deal with the tens of thousands people hurt in Israeli's military offensive, a UN health emergency expert said on Wednesday. Gaza's Health Ministry estimates that 60,000 people have been wounded, with hundreds more wounded per day. AP

SAN FRANCISCO

Meta's Sheryl Sandberg to step down from Board after a decade

AFP

Meta's former chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, announced that she is leaving the company's Board after more than a decade. Ms. Sandberg, 54, said on Wednesday that she would not stand for re-election once her term ends in May, but would serve as an adviser to the company thereafter. AFP

MOSCOW

Russia downs Ukraine drone near Moscow, missiles in border region

AFP

Russia repelled air attacks by Ukraine overnight, shooting down a drone near Moscow and missiles over the Belgorod region bordering Ukraine, officials said on Thursday. Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said that according to preliminary information there were no victims or damage. AFP

TOKYO

Japan inks deal to buy 400 long-range missiles from U.S.

AP

Japan signed a deal with the United States on Thursday to buy 400 long-range Tomahawk missiles as it ramps up its military capacity. Faced with growing Chinese military clout and a nuclear-armed North Korea, Japan plans to double its defence spending to the NATO standard of 2% of GDP by 2027. AFP

U.S. hits Yemen after Houthis redesignated as 'terrorists'

U.S. Central Command claims 14 missiles that were loaded to be fired were targeted; NSA says Washington will re-evaluate the terror designation if the rebels stop attacking ships in the Red Sea

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States conducted additional strikes early on Thursday against a couple of Houthi anti-ship missiles that were being prepared to fire into the Red Sea, White House national security spokesperson John Kirby told pressperson. American forces had targeted 14 missiles that were ready to launch in Yemen on Wednesday, after Washington re-designated the Iran-backed Houthi rebels as a "terrorist" entity for their attacks on merchant vessels.

The Houthis – who have already faced multiple rounds of air strikes in response to their targeting of international shipping – struck a U.S.-owned bulk cargo carrier in the wake of the designation announcement, and vowed to continue attacks they say are in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Aerial strike: The U.S.-owned ship, *Genco Picardy*, which came under attack by Houthi rebels, in the Gulf of Aden on Wednesday. AP

"These missiles on launch rails presented an imminent threat to merchant vessels and U.S. Navy ships in the region and could have been fired at any time, prompting U.S. forces to exercise their inherent right and obligation to defend themselves," CENTCOM said.

Hodeida and the city of Taez were among the targets of the first round of U.S. and U.K. strikes in Yemen last week. Houthi media outlet *Al-Masirah TV* said both were hit again in the latest strikes. The U.S. announced earlier on Wednesday that it would return the Houthis to a list of "terrorist" entities.

"The Department of State today is announcing the designation of Ansarallah, commonly referred to as the Houthis, as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist group, effective 30 days from today," Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

"During the 30-day implementation delay, the U.S. government will conduct robust outreach to stakeholders, aid providers, and partners who are crucial to facilitating humanitarian assistance and the commercial import of critical commodities in Yemen," he said.

Meanwhile, President Joe Biden on Thursday acknowledged that the American and British bombardment has yet to stop shipping attacks by the militants on vessels in the Red Sea.

Impede funding

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the designation "is an important tool to impede terrorist funding to the Houthis, and further restrict their access to financial markets". "If the Houthis cease their attacks in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the U.S. will immediately re-evaluate this designation," Mr. Sullivan said.

The Houthis, however, said they would not call off their strikes.

Air strike on southern Syria, likely by Jordan, kills 9

Associated Press
BEIRUT

An air strike on southern Syria early on Thursday killed at least nine people and was probably carried out by Jordan's air force, Syrian opposition activists said, the latest in a series of strikes in an area where cross-border drug smugglers have been active.

There was no immediate confirmation from Jordan on the strike that hit the province of Sweida.

The head of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, Rami Abdurrahman, said the people killed had nothing to do with smuggling, suggesting that the Jordanian air force might have received incorrect intelligence from local residents.

Israeli air strike on home in southern Gaza kills 16

Associated Press
RAFAH

An Israeli airstrike on a home killed 16 people, half of them children, in the southern Gaza town of Rafah, medics said early on Thursday. The military continued to strike targets in areas of the besieged territory where it has told civilians to seek refuge.

There was meanwhile no word on whether medicines that entered the territory on Wednesday as part of a deal brokered by France and Qatar had been distributed to dozens hostages with chronic illnesses who are being held by Hamas.

More than 100 days after Hamas triggered the war with its October 7 attack, Israel continues to wage one of the deadliest and most destructive military campaigns in recent history, with the goal of dismantling the militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007 and returning scores of captives.

Deadly hit: People inspecting damage to their homes caused by Israeli air strikes, in Rafah on Thursday. GETTY IMAGES

More than 24,000 Palestinians have been killed, some 85% of the narrow coastal territory's 2.3 million people have fled their homes, and the United Nations says a quarter of the population is starving.

Hundreds of thousands have heeded Israeli evacuation orders and packed into southern Gaza, where shelters run by the United Nations are overflowing. But Israel has continued to strike what it says are militant targets in all parts of Gaza, often killing women and children.

Russia rejects U.S. bid for arms control talks

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Russia's top diplomat dismissed the U.S. proposal to resume a dialogue on nuclear arms control, saying it's impossible while Washington offers military support to Ukraine.

Sergey Lavrov accused the West of fuelling global security risks by encouraging Ukraine to ramp up strikes on Russia and warned that Moscow will achieve its goals in the conflict regardless of Western support for Kyiv.

Commenting on a U.S. proposal to resume contacts in the nuclear arms control, Mr. Lavrov said that Moscow has rejected

Sergey Lavrov

the offer. He said that for such talks to be held, Washington first needs to revise its current policy toward Russia. Mr. Lavrov said that Washington's push for the revival of nuclear talks has been driven by a desire to resume inspections of Russia's nuclear weapons sites.

China, Philippines agree to ease tensions

Associated Press
BANGKOK

China and the Philippines said they have agreed to work on lowering tensions after a year of public and tense confrontations in the South China Sea between their ships that have raised concerns about armed engagement in the region.

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Thursday that the two sides agreed to continue to improve communication and use friendly negotiations to manage their differences at sea, "especially to manage the situation at Ren'Ai Reef".

Ren'Ai Reef is the Chinese name for what the Philippines call Ayungin Shoal and the U.S. calls the Second Thomas Shoal, the site of multiple confrontations between the two countries' ships in recent months.

In November, Manila said that a Chinese coast guard ship conducted dangerous manoeuvres and blasted a Philippine supply ship with a water cannon in disputed waters. China disputed the account, saying it acted appropriately.

China and the Philippines said they agreed to limit tensions at a meeting on the South China Sea on Wednesday in Shanghai, the eighth in a series that began in 2017.

Thai man faces record 50 years in prison for royal insult under *lèse-majesté* law

Reuters
BANGKOK

A 30-year-old Thai man is facing a record 50 years in prison for royal insult from dozens of social media posts perceived to criticise the monarchy, his lawyer said, after an appeal court on Thursday added more jail time to his initial conviction.

Mongkol "Busbas" Thirakot, an online clothing vendor from northern Chiang Rai province, was handed 22 years jail time after an appeal court found more royal insult violations, adding to a 28-year sentence handed down by a criminal court last year.

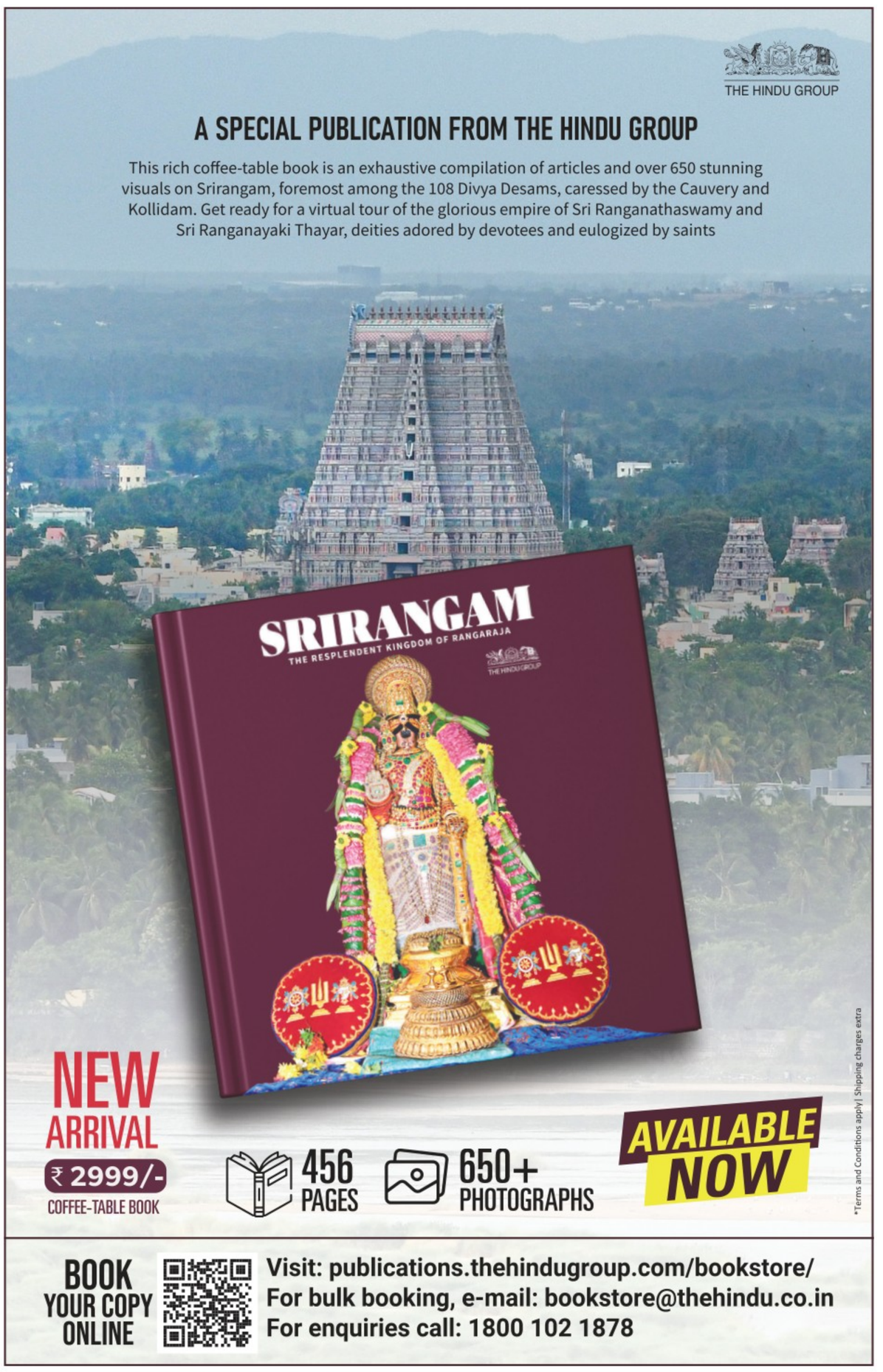
'Extreme' law

Thailand's *lèse-majesté* law, one of the strictest in the world, protects the palace from criticism and carries a jail sentence of up to 15 years for each perceived violation, a punishment condemned by international human rights groups as extreme. Mongkol was arrested in April 2021 and received a 28-year sentence last January for 14 violations of *lèse-majesté*. The appeal court confirmed his prior conviction and found him guilty of 11 more violations.

Mongkol denies any wrongdoing and will appeal his sentence to the Supreme Court, says lawyer

Theeraphon Khoomsap, Mongkol's lawyer, said Mongkol denies wrongdoing and will appeal his sentence to the Supreme Court.

According to legal aid group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights, at least 262 people have been charged with *lèse-majesté* offences since 2020 when unprecedented youth-led street demonstrations erupted in which protest leaders openly criticised the monarchy.


THE HINDU GROUP
A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP
This rich coffee-table book is an exhaustive compilation of articles and over 650 stunning visuals on Srirangam, foremost among the 108 Divya Desams, caressed by the Cauvery and Kollidam. Get ready for a virtual tour of the glorious empire of Sri Ranganathaswamy and Sri Ranganayaki Thayar, deities adored by devotees and eulogized by saints
SRIRANGAM
THE RESPLENDENT KINGDOM OF RANGARAJA
NEW ARRIVAL
₹ 2999/-
COFFEE-TABLE BOOK
456 PAGES
650+ PHOTOGRAPHS
AVAILABLE NOW
*Terms and Conditions apply| Shipping charges extra
BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE
Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/
For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in
For enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

INBRIEF

Sun to buy rest of unit Taro Pharmaceutical for $348 mn

Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. and Taro Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd. have signed a merger pact under which Sun, Taro's controlling shareholder, would acquire all outstanding ordinary shares of Taro other than those already held by Sun or its affiliates for $43 per share in a cash-without- interest deal. The total cost of acquisition of 21.52% of Taro's total outstanding shares amounts to $347.73 million (₹2,892 crore), Sun Pharma said in a filing with stock exchanges.

Ashok Leyland bags orders for 1,225 Viking buses

Ashok Leyland has bagged orders for 1,225 fully-built Viking buses from Karnataka's state transport undertakings (STUs) to be delivered by April. The buses shall adhere to AIS153 standards and have advanced features, including a powerful H-series 6-cylinder 147 kW (197 hp) engine and OBD-II certification, said the firm. "This repeat order is a clear indication of the trust our customers place in Ashok Leyland," said Sanjeev Kumar, President– M&HCV.

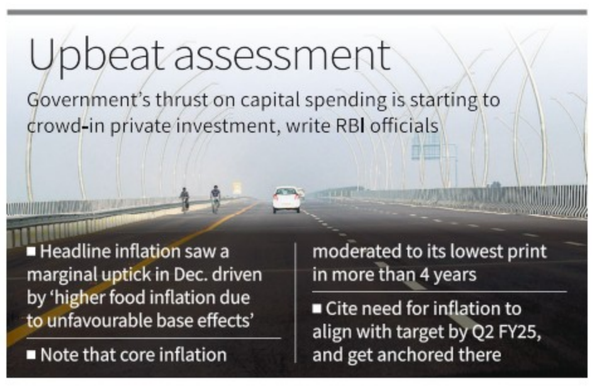
Puravankara's nine-month pre-sales surge 89%: CEO

Reatlty developer Puravankara group has posted an 89% y-o-y growth in pre-sales at ₹3,967 crore during the first nine months of the current fiscal, said a top official. "Most of the pre-sales happened in two cities, namely Bengaluru and Chennai. In terms of volume, the growth was 80% at 5 million sq.ft.," Group CEO Abhishek Kapoor told the media on Thursday. The group delivered 81 residential and commercial projects, measuring 46 million sq.ft., across nine cities.

India to log firmer-than-expected growth in FY24, assert RBI officials

A shift from consumption to investment, led by government capital spending, underpinning growth momentum, write the officials led by Deputy Governor Patra in a bulletin article; aim should be to secure 7% real GDP growth in FY25, they add

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI


Upbeat assessment
Government's thrust on capital spending is starting to crowd-in private investment, write RBI officials
■ Headline inflation saw a marginal uptick in Dec. driven by 'higher food inflation due to unfavourable base effects'
■ Note that core inflation moderated to its lowest print in more than 4 years
■ Cite need for inflation to align with target by Q2 FY25, and get anchored there

Even as the world economy faces divergent near-term prospects, emerging market economies led by Asia and India are poised to outperform, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) officials led by Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra wrote in an article in the January edition of the RBI Bulletin.

Noting that the Indian economy was poised to record 'stronger-than-expected growth in 2023-24, underpinned by a shift from consumption to investment, the officials asserted: "The government's thrust on capex is starting to crowd-in private investment." They also observed that headline inflation had recorded a marginal uptick in December -- to 5.7% from 5.6% in November -- driven by "higher food inflation due to unfavourable base effects".

'Core inflation easing'

The 14 basis points (bps) increase in inflation came primarily from an unfavourable base effect of about 50 bps, they added.

Stating that core inflation had moderated to 3.8% in December, its lowest print in more than 4 years, from 4.1% in November, they said the moderation was broad-based.

Emphasising that in India, potential output was picking up, with actual output running above it although the gap was moderate, they said in in 2024-25, the objective ought to be to sustain momentum by securing real GDP growth of at least 7% in an environment of macroeconomic stability.

"Accordingly, inflation needs to align with the target by the second quarter of the year, as projected, and get anchored there.

Balance sheets of financial institutions need to be strengthened and asset quality improved even further," the central bank officials added.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	71,187	-0.44
US Dollar	83.13	0.01
Gold	62,750	-0.48
Brent oil	78.44	1.11

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2918.90	-52.15
Adani Ports	1154.05	-12.80
Apollo Hosp	5990.85	64.95
Asian Paints	3163.85	-78.45
Axis Bank	1097.50	15.20
Bajaj Auto	7083.60	-82.35
Bajaj Finserv	1581.15	-5.00
Bajaj Finance	7265.55	-93.30
Bharti Airtel	1087.05	1.80
BPCL	473.20	1.55
Britannia Ind	5015.15	-46.55
Cipla	1322.95	28.95
Coal India	375.65	-4.00
Divis Lab	3700.20	-28.60
Dr Reddys Lab	5649.95	0.00
Eicher Motors	3691.15	-59.95
Grasim Ind	2053.65	-14.20
HCL Tech	1567.55	-8.35
HDFC Bank	1486.15	-51.35
HDFC Life	607.80	1.20
Hero MotoCorp	4394.00	23.15
Hindalco	554.90	-5.35
Hind Unilever	2548.00	-14.90
ICICI Bank	986.35	4.60
IndusInd Bank	1612.90	-31.00
Infosys	1642.60	2.40
ITC	465.50	-1.10
JSW Steel	803.65	-9.00
Kotak Bank	1777.25	-2.40
L&T	3596.00	25.05
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5603.00	-672.60
M&M	1617.25	19.55
Maruti Suzuki	9924.50	-127.20
NestleIndia	2502.00	-41.10
NTPC	299.30	-10.00
ONGC	233.55	1.50
PowerGrid Corp	233.45	-5.75
Reliance Ind	2735.90	12.75
SBI Life	1404.90	-16.25
State Bank	628.30	2.30
Sun Pharma	1335.75	36.75
TataConsumerProduct	1146.80	8.20
Tata Motors	819.05	13.50
Tata Steel	131.00	-0.65
TCS	3902.60	18.00
Tech Mahindra	1355.15	28.40
Titan	3734.70	-95.35
UltraTech Cement	9892.25	37.60
UPL	544.20	-6.80
Wipro	482.65	0.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 18

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	82.92	83.24
Euro	90.30	90.65
British Pound	105.18	105.59
Japanese Yen (100)	56.09	56.31
Chinese Yuan	11.53	11.58
Swiss Franc	95.93	96.31
Singapore Dollar	61.73	61.98
Canadian Dollar	61.46	61.70
Malaysian Ringitt	17.56	17.64
Australian Dollar	54.43	54.65

Source:Indian Bank

'Time ripe for aircraft assembly line in India'

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Scindia also reiterates "concern" over fleet groundings due to Pratt and Whitney engines

Aerospace firms such as Boeing and Airbus must plan to set up a "final assembly line" (FAL) in India, where airlines are placing some of the biggest orders, said Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia.

"The time is ripe for manufacturing majors to set up a FAL," Mr. Scindia told reporters here. "Some have a top-down approach, while others have a bottom-up approach, where you bring ancillary players up to speed so that they begin producing aircraft parts and grow from there," he added.

The minister also reiterated "concern" over fleet groundings due to Pratt and Whitney engine issues, which had hit a range of aircraft in the country.

(The reporter is in Hyderabad at the invitation of Air India)

SBI raises ₹5,000 crore through issue of bonds

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

State Bank of India (SBI) said it had raised ₹5,000 crore through its second Basel III-compliant Additional Tier 1 bond issuance for the current financial year at a coupon of 8.34%. The tenor of this bonds is perpetual with a call option after 10 years and every anniversary thereafter.

"The issue was oversubscribed by about 2.65 times against the base issue size of ₹2,000 crore," SBI said.

Akasa Air orders 150 Boeing 737 MAX jets

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Akasa Air on Thursday announced an order for 150 Boeing 737 Max aircraft during the inaugural event of Wings India Air Show 2024. The latest order, comprising 737 MAX 10 and 737 MAX 8-200 jets, will provide the airline a steady aircraft delivery stream through 2032, the airline said in a statement. Akasa started flights in August 2022. This was preceded by an initial order for 72 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. Another four Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft followed in June 2023. Today's announcement takes the airline's order book to a total of 226 aircraft.

The airline has bilateral rights to operate flights to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar, according to Praveen Iyer, co-founder.

Foxconn to partner with HCL for chip testing plant

Reuters
BENGALURU/TAIPEI

Taiwan's Foxconn will partner with tech firm HCL Group for a semiconductor assembly and testing facility in India, the companies said on Thursday.

The firms will set up an outsourced assembly and testing (OSAT) unit in the south asian nation. An OSAT plant packages, assembles and tests foundry-made silicon wafers, turning them into finished semiconductor chips.

Foxconn said in a regulatory filing that its India unit will own a 40% stake in the joint venture with a $37.2 million investment. HCL did not disclose financial details from its side.

'Mobile services will cost more after polls'

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

The cost of mobile recharges is likely to go up after General Elections in 2024, indicates a report released by BNP Paribas on Thursday.

"Telecom tariff hike is a matter of time. We expect 2024 to be a strong year for the industry, with a mid-year tariff hike and moderation or slowdown in capex," said Kunal Vora, Head, India Equity Research at BNP Paribas India.

Telcos have raised tariffs in 2019 and 2021 but not since. During the last five years, industry growth has been 18-20% in years with tariff hikes and 9-12% in years with stable tariffs, which is stronger than growth seen in other mass consumption categories, according to their study - India Telecoms Report 2024.

BNP Paribas also predicts a slowdown in capex due to the lack of a strong uptake of 5G.

"We also do not see any appetite for more spectrum purchases. With large divergence in capex between the three operators, we find the industry moving towards a duopoly," Vora added.

ICICI Pru slumps as new business margins slide

Reuters
BENGALURU

Shares of India's ICICI Prudential Life Insurance fell 10% intraday on Thursday after weak demand led to a sharp contraction in new business margins.

Shares of the company fell to an eight-month low, marking the biggest slide since February 1, when India announced a plan to tax the total returns of policies with returns exceeding ₹5 lakh at maturity.

The life insurer, which reported third-quarter results on Wednesday, said its expected profit margin from new policies declined to 26.7% for the nine months to December 31 from 32% a year earlier.

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR
Karnataka Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board
Kalyana Suraksha Bhavana, ITI Compound, Dairy Circle, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore-560029 **Phone :** 080-29753354/56, **E-mail:** Karbuildworkerswelfare@gmail.com

Short Term Tender Notification

No. KBOCWWB/Tender/Tool kits/CR-06/2023-24 Dated: 17.01.2024

Tenders (Two bid system-Technical and Financial bids) are hereby invited by Karnataka Building and other Construction Workers Welfare Board from interested Agencies as per Terms and conditions described in the Bid document for Supply and delivery of various Tool kits as below. **Construction Workers Category : (1) Mason Toolkits : Supply & Delivery Details :** Belagavi Region, Hassan Region, Kalaburgi Region, Bangalore-1 Region and Bangalore-2 Region **(2) Welding Toolkits :** Belagavi Region, Hassan Region, Kalaburgi Region, Bangalore-1 **& 2 Region (3) Tile Layer Toolkits :** Belagavi Region, Hassan Region, Kalaburgi Region, Bangalore -1 & 2 Region **(4) Electrician Toolkits :** Belagavi Region, Hassan Region, Kalaburgi Region, Bangalore -1 & 2 Region **(5) Road Construction Worker Toolkits :** Belagavi Region & Hassan Region, Kalaburgi Region & Bangalore-1&2 Region **(6) Plumbing Toolkits :** Belagavi Region.
Tenders shall be submitted electronically through e-procurement portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of the Government of Karnataka.
Last date of submission of completed tenders is on **01-02-2024** up to **5.00 pm.**
For further details and information can be obtained from the Joint Secretary, KBOCWWB during office hours.

Sd/-
Joint Secretary
KB&OCWWB

DIPR/CP/3102/Zen/2023-24

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.CEE/TZH/SEE(O)/AEE-1/F-243/2023-24/20189-93 Dated:18.01.2024

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPPP mode only)

KPTCL invites bids through KPPP mode for Combined Work of (1) **Construction of one number of 66kV Terminal Bay at existing 66/11kV Kandli Sub-station** in Hassan Taluk, Hassan District for proposed 66kV Line to proposed Railway Tractions Sub-station at Alur.
(2) **Construction of 66 kV SC Line on DC Towers with coyote ACSR conductor from existing 66/11kV Kandli Sub- station to** proposed Railway Traction Sub-station at Alur railway **station for a distance of 4.54 Kms.**
For Arranging power supply to an extent of 5MVA on 66kV reference in favour of Divisional Railway Manager,Traction and Distribution, South Western Railway Mysuru for their Railway traction Sub-station (RTSS) proposed at Alur Railway Station in Alur Taluk, Hassan District on Total Turnkey basis including supply of all matching materials/Equipments and Erection (Including Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.
WORK INDENT NO: KPTCL/2023-24/EL/ WORK_INDENT542 Dated:18.01.2024.
The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPPP website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on hyper link "tenders" **on or after 22.01.2024 at 11:00 am.** Other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy) Transmission Zone, KPTCL, 3rd Floor, Prasarna Bhavana, Santhepete, B.M. Road, Hassan-573 201

India seeing fastest air traffic growth in the world: Maillard

Jagriti Chandra
HYDERABAD

Skyward bound: Airbus forecasts that India will need 2,840 aircraft in the next 20 years to meet its aviation growth. ANI

"Global aviation is pivoting to India", which is witness to the fastest annual traffic growth anywhere in the world, said Airbus President and MD for India and South Asia, Remi Maillard.

"Over the next 20 years, India will remain first in growth in the world with an annual traffic growth of 6.2%, compared with the world average of 3.6%," Mr. Maillard added during a media interaction at the Wings India 2024 aero show held here.

Airbus forecasts that India will need 2,840 aircraft in the next 20 years to meet its aviation growth.

Despite rapid expansion, India continues to be a heavily under-penetrated market with a per capita air travel of a mere 0.13%, which is a fourth of China's at 0.5%.

Airbus also announced a joint-venture with Air India to set up a pilot training unit which will house 10 simulators for Airbus A320 and A350 aircraft to train 5,000 pilots till the end of the year 2030.

(The journalist is in Hyderabad on the invitation of Air India)

Coal India eyes mining minerals such as lithium

Press Trust of India
RANCHI

Coal India Ltd. (CIL) is mulling entering mining of critical minerals, including lithium, an official said.

"We will take one block from Government of India and do exploration and once lithium is proved then we can go for mining," CIL Technical Director B. Veera Reddy told reporters.

"We have expertise in coal mining and can divert our resources for mining of critical minerals," Mr. Reddy added.

Mr. Reddy is also CMD of Central Coalfields Ltd.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
Office of the Superintending Engineer Elec., O&M Circle, GESCOM, Bellary.
ದೂ:08392-268933/268634 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 08392–268635
E-Mail :seeballari1@gmail.com

No. SEE/BLY/EEE(O)/AEEE(O)/2023-24/F-74/6899-07 Date:17.01.2024

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-procurement mode only)

Tender are invited in E-Procurement mode only for availing the services of (a) Data Entry Operators (b)Office Boys(c).store Helpers & (d)Sweepers (e) personal secretary at the officers in O&M Circle,GESCOM, Ballari through outsource contract agencies.
Bid Enq. No: Tender-14 **Particulars:** Providing Services of Data Entry Operators, Office Boys, Sweepers, Stores Helpers (Assistants), Workers for day to day office work at Urban Division Hospet in O&M Circle Ballari on outsource Contract Basis .
Bid Enq. No: Tender-15 **Particulars:** Providing Services of Data Entry Operators, Office Boys, Sweepers, Stores Helpers (Assistants), Workers& Drivers for day to day office work to the H.B.Halli Division in O&M Circle,GESCOM Ballari on outsource Contract Basis.
The details will be available in web site: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.01.2024** for any clarifications and details please contact office of the under signed during office hours Ph: **9448359009 and 9480844100.**

Sd/- Superintending Engineer Ele.
O&M Circle, GESCOM,Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/728/KSMCA/2023-24

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PUBLIC WORKS DEPT. DIVISION, GADAG.
Phone No : 08372-238782 Fax No. 08372-237268
E.Mail : eepwdgad@gmail.com
No: EEPWDGDG PB- 4 :Different Head : 2023-24/ 4405 Dated : 17-01-2024

Tender Notification

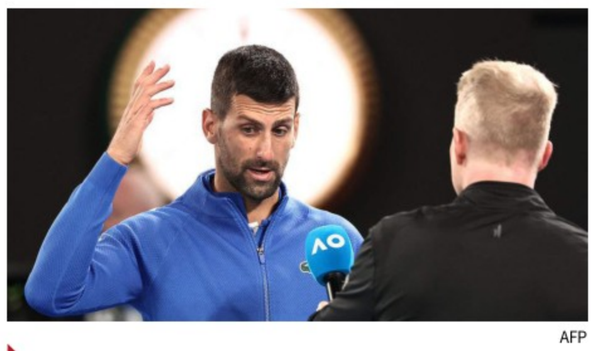
The Executive Engineer, Public works department. Division,Gadag invites itemwise tenders from eligible tenderers of **03** work of total amount of Rs. **264.40** Lakh (Min estimate amount: Rs. **32.80** Lakhs to Max Estimate Amount : **181.50** Lakhs) for the Different Head of account on behalf of the Hon'able Governor of Karnataka as per Standard Bid Document KW- 2 & 4 through **http:// www. kppp. Karnataka. gov.in/**
W.I. **6377 (a)** Last Date for Clarification up to : **25-1-2024, (b)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **01-02-2024 (c)** Opening of Technical Bid Date : **02-02-2024 (d)** Opening of Financial Bid Date : **03-02-2024**
W.I. **6561** and **7008 (a)** Last Date for Clarification up to : **22-01-2024**, **(b)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders : **24-01-2024 (c)** Opening of Technical Bid Date : **25-01-2024 (d)** Opening of Financial Bid Date : **29-01-2024**
Work Indent No:- 6561, 7008 and 6377 : The tenderers are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause **3** of the instructions to tenderers to qualify for award of the contract. For further information contact the office of The Executive Engineer, PWD Division Gadag (08372-238782) during office hours.
GST shall be paid separately as per prevailing Government Order. The increase in GST shall not be paid in the extended period of contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time.

DIPR/Gadag/KSMCA/474/2023-24

Sd/- Executive Engineer, P.W.D. Division, Gadag.

OLD FRIEND

Djokovic's 15-year 'special relationship' with Melbourne tree



AFP

Novak Djokovic revealed a 15-year "special relationship" with a Melbourne tree. "It is true, it is true. There's one particular tree that I've been having a special relationship with, so to say, in the last 15 years," he said. "That particular tree, I cannot reveal which one. I like to ground myself and connect with that old friend."

MARATHON

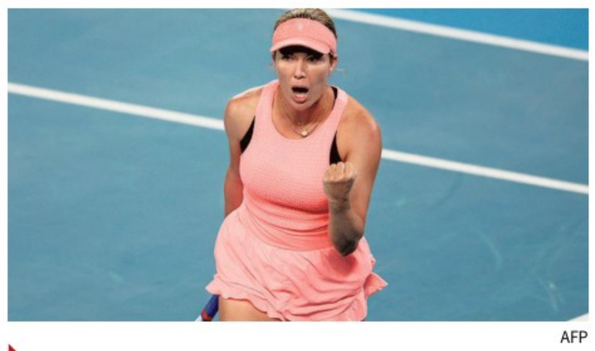
Rybakina ousted in history-making Australian Open tie-break

AP

Unseeded Russian Anna Blinkova dumped Elena Rybakina out of the Australian Open following the longest tie-break in a singles match in Grand Slam history. The match hinged on a breathtaking tie-break that Blinkova won 22-20, which lasted more than 31 minutes. It surpassed the previous longest tie-break of 38 points.

FINAL SEASON

Collins' Melbourne stay ends, says she will quit tennis this year



AFP

Former Australian Open finalist Danielle Collins revealed on Thursday that she plans to quit tennis this year, saying having children is on her agenda. The 30-year-old pushed World No. 1 Iga Swiatek in a tough three-setter in the second round. "I don't really know when, but this will be my last season," she said.

GETTING READY

ICC unveils 34,000-capacity modular stadium in New York

ICC

ICC unveiled a 34,000-seat modular stadium in New York on Wednesday to stage eight matches of this year's T20 World Cup. The Nassau County International Stadium has been awarded the June 9 match between India and Pakistan. The venue would repurpose the grandstands used for the Las Vegas GP, and have drop-in pitches.

Sudden-death heartbreak for India, faces Japan for Paris spot

Germany and USA punch a ticket to the Summer Games; the former overcomes a spirited home side led by Savita while the latter cashes in on the numerical advantage to turn the tables on the Japanese in a thrilling encounter

OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

India captain Savita stood teary-eyed in the middle of the field with fellow goalkeeper Bichu Devi as Germany booked a spot in the final of the Olympic Qualifiers and a ticket to Paris with a 4-3 win in sudden-death after being tied 2-2 in regulation time in the semifinals on Thursday.

Starting as the underdog against a team that has made it to every Olympics since its debut in 1984 and everything, including track record and rankings against it, India put up a gallant fight before going down.

It will now play Japan in a must-win game for the third spot as the last remaining Olympic spot is at stake. USA won 2-1 against Japan in the other semifinal.

Though India had more possession, Germany dominated the exchanges. The host's speed and attacking play, the highlight in the last two games, was missing.

Stopped in their tracks: The Indians gave it their all but couldn't get past the Germans. PTI

A penalty corner (PC) in the final minute of the first quarter saw Deepika strike past Julia Sontag and put India ahead. Instead of building on it, the Indian team went on the defensive, allowing the Germans the space to keep pressing hard.

For the next 30 minutes, the game was largely restricted to India's half as Germany kept pushing for an equaliser. India's defence stood firm against a German side that barely allowed breathing space. Relying only on free hits and individual skills to move ahead, the Indian attack did not have the cohesion or penetration seen before.

The Indian defence, which had stalled repeated German attacks, was guilty of conceding two goals after failing to mark Charlotte Stapenhorst inside the circle and not providing enough back-up for Savita. The second of those came in the 57th minute and just when it looked like the contest was sealed, Ishika managed to deflect a rebound off India's third PC in the 59th minute to take the game into shootouts.

It looked going India's way with Sangita and Sonika scoring and Savita saving two of Germany's first three shots. But India's two most experienced players in the shootout – Neha and Navneet – hurried and missed their chances, taking the game to sudden-death. Lisa Nolte struck her second of the night to end India's hopes.

Earlier in the day, for 50 minutes, Japan seemed to have the game and a final spot in its control before a yellow card to Chico Fujibayashi in the 52nd minute gave USA the numerical advantage. It made the most of it, scoring twice in three minutes to stun the Japanese and return to the Olympics.

In the classification matches for the 5-8 place, New Zealand beat Czech Republic 2-0 with two goals in three minutes while Italy beat Chile in a shootout.

The results:

Semifinals: USA 2 (Ashley Hoffman, Abigail Tamer) bt Japan 1 (Amiru Shimada).

Germany 2 (Charlotte Stapenhorst 2) drew with India 2 (Deepika, Ishika); Germany won in sudden-death.

5-8 place: Italy 2 (Antonella Bruni, Federica Carta) drew with Chile 2 (Francisca Tala, Paula Valdivia); Italy won on penalties.

New Zealand 2 (Samantha Child, Katie Doar) bt Czech Republic 0.

Prannoy, Chirag-Satwik duo move into the quarterfinals

INDIA OPEN

Rakesh Rao
NEW DELHI

A contest that headed for a possible upset of H.S. Prannoy fizzed out into a one-sided affair once Priyanshu Rajawat twisted his ankle in the second game.

A gracious Prannoy acknowledged the 21-year-old sparring partner's rise in the last 18 months after his 20-22, 21-14, 21-14 victory in 76 minutes for a place in the men's singles quarterfinals of the India Open badminton here on Thursday.

The only other Indian interest, second-seeded combination of Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy avenged the Japan Open loss to Chinese Taipei's Liu Ching Yao and Yang Po Han 21-14, 21-15 for a place in the last eight.

On a day when reigning World and defending men's champion Thailand's Kunlavut Vitidsarn and two-time World women champion Akane Yamaguchi were sent packing, China's Li Shifeng and Indonesia's Jonathan Christie, seeded three and five, were upstaged.

Using the slowness of the shuttle here to his advantage, Priyanshu did not offer Prannoy the desired pace. But Prannoy still managed to finish the point early and stayed ahead until the youngster made it 7-7.

Stretched: Prannoy faced a stern test against sparring partner Priyanshu before the latter twisted his ankle. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

As expected, the rallies induced by Priyanshu witnessed some good shot-making from both players. Prannoy stayed ahead for the better part until his younger rival won four straight points to hold two game-points. Prannoy saved them but could not deny Priyanshu the opening game.

In the second, when Prannoy placed the shuttle for a 4-0 lead with a deft forehand crosscourt, Priyanshu lunged to return but ended up twisting his right ankle. For the rest of the match, Priyanshu appeared circumspect enough not to aggravate the injury.

Prannoy won the first seven points and six of the last seven points of the second game to force the decider. Again, Prannoy jumped to a 5-0 lead and enlarged it to 10-1. A gallant Priyanshu managed to make the scoreline look respectable before surrendering.

Prannoy now faces Chinese Taipei's Wang Tzu Wei against whom he holds a 6-2 record.

Important results (second round):

Men: H.S. Prannoy bt Priyanshu Rajawat 20-22, 21-14, 21-14; Koki Watanabe (Jpn) t 3-Li Shifeng (Chn) 21-14, 13-21, 21-19; Lee Cheuk Yiu (Hkg) bt Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) 16-21, 22-20, 23-21; Lee Zil Jia (Mas) bt Jonathan Christie (Ina) 21-15, 21-13.

Doubles: Chirag Shetty/Satwiksairaj Rankireddy bt Liu Ching Yao/Yang Po Han (Tpe) 21-14, 21-15.

Women: Yeo Jia Min (Sin) bt Gregoria Mariska Tunjung (Ina) 25-23, 21-14; Busanan Ongbamrungphan (Tha) bt Akane Yamaguchi (Jpn) 21-11, 21-19.

Uzbekistan brushes aside a lacklustre India in Asian Cup

Neeladri Bhattacharjee
DOHA

Uzbekistan made India look like a school team, beating it 3-0 in their AFC Asian Cup 2023 Group B game at the Ahmed bin Ali Stadium on Thursday.

This was the first win for the Central Asia side in this edition of the tournament and keeps it second in the standings and on the driving seat to qualify for the knockouts.

India, on the other hand, was left chasing shadows in most parts of the game, and lost deservedly, leaving its chances of progressing past the group stage to a miracle.

The side, playing in a formation different from the one it has usually played in - in a 4-3-3 shape instead of 4-2-3-1 - looked vulnerable right from kick-off as Uzbeks rained hellfire, with shots one after the other. Within five minutes, they were 1-0 up. Sherzod Nasrullaev's cross from the left found Otabek Shukurov, who headed it to Abbosbek Fayzullaev. The 22-year-old star of the Under-20 AFC Asian Cup 2023 effortlessly struck it past Gurpreet Singh Sandhu into the bottom-right corner.

Early strike: Fayzullaev put Uzbekistan ahead in the fourth minute.

Fourteen minutes later, Igor Sergeev overlapped with Fayzullaev, with the former scoring an international goal on foreign soil after three years. Initially, a back-tracking Akash Mishra intercepted Fayzullaev's cross from the left. But as the Mumbai City full-back's failed clearance ricocheted off the woodwork, Sergeev arrived to sound the death knell.

India tried to claw back into the game, producing two clear chances at the brink of half-time. Mahesh Singh Naorem took a shot from outside the box while Sunil Chhetri tried a header from an Anirudh Thapa corner-kick.

But neither helped the cause, with the first one saved by Utkir Yusupov and the latter flying over the goal. Almost immediately, Uzbekistan attacked against the run of play, with Nasrullaev putting the contest to bed before the break.

India resumed with fresh zeal in the second half, with Rahul Bheke almost scoring in the 72nd minute, with a header. But Yusupov's reflexes got the better of him, with a fingertip push over the goal.

In the other game in this group, Australia rode on Jackson Irvine's winner to beat Syria 1-0 and qualify for the knockouts, at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium earlier in the day.

The results: India 0 lost to Uzbekistan 3 (Fayzullaev 4, Sergeev 18, Nasrullaev 45+4); Syria 0 lost to Australia 1 (Irvine 60).

Alcaraz marches on, Swiatek battles past Collins; Ruud, Zverev survive; Juncheng halts Nagal's run

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Agence France-Presse
MELBOURNE

Carlos Alcaraz said he reached a "great level" as he booked his ticket for the Australian Open third round on Thursday after Iga Swiatek staged an astonishing comeback to stay alive.

The Spanish World No. 2 matched his best Melbourne result by reaching the last 32 with a 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3, 7-6(3) win against Italy's unseeded Lorenzo Sonego.

Earlier, Polish women's World No. 1 Swiatek was up a set and a break in her second-round match against Danielle Collins before faltering badly and slipping to a 4-1 deficit in the deciding set.

But just as she appeared to be heading home, she reeled off five straight games to win 6-4, 3-6, 6-4 and extend her winning run to 18 matches.

"Oh my God, I was at the airport already," joked Swiatek, who has never won the Australian Open.

On a day packed with drama at Melbourne Park, sixth-ranked Alexander Zverev and Casper Rudd, the 11th seed, were pushed to the brink before both came through their matches in fifth-set tie-breaks.

Down but not out: Swiatek fought back from a 1-4 deficit in the deciding set to cross the finish line. GETTY IMAGES

Facing a second consecutive second-round exit in Melbourne, Germany's Zverev came back to win 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(7).

It was a similar story for three-time Grand Slam finalist Ruud, who was taken to a deciding set by Australia's Max Purcell, which he won 10-7.

Women's World No. 5 Jessica Pegula was ousted 4-6, 2-6 by young French star Clara Burel.

Unseeded Russian Anna Blinkova dumped World No. 3 Elena Rybakina, squandering multiple match points in a final-set tie-break lasting more than 31 minutes before sealing victory.

Two-time runner-up Daniil Medvedev reached the third round with a five-set win over Emil Ruusuvuori.

The World No. 3 battled back from two sets down to win 3-6, 6-7(1), 6-4, 7-6 (1), 6-0 after four hours and 20 minutes on court.

Chinese tennis prodigy Juncheng Shang blunted Sumit Nagal's challenge to halt the Indian's impressive run.

Nagal began in dominant fashion but the 18-year-old wild card entrant got better as the game progressed to walk out a winner with a 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4 scoreline.

IMPORTANT SECOND ROUND RESULTS

Men: Cazaux (Fra) bt 8-Rune (Den) 7-6(4), 6-4, 4-6, 6-3; 28-Griekspoor (Ned) bt Fils (Fra) 3-6, 6-1, 7-5, 6-4; 21-Humbert (Fra) bt Zhang (Chn) 6-2, 5-7, 6-1, 7-6(3); 9-Hurkacz (Pol) bt Mensik (Cze) 6-7(9), 6-1, 5-7, 6-1, 6-3; 13-Dimitrov (Bul) bt Kokkinakis (Aus) 6-3, 6-2, 4-6, 6-4; Borges (Por) bt 23-Davidovich Fokina (Esp) 7-6(7), 6-3, 6-3; 27-Auger-Aliassime (Can) bt Grenier (Fra) 6-1, 3-6, 6-1, 6-2; 3-Medvedev (Rus) bt Ruusuvuori (Fin) 3-6, 6-7(1), 6-4, 7-6(1), 6-0; 6-Zverev (Ger) bt Klein (Svk) 7-5, 3-6, 4-6, 7-6(5), 7-6(7); Michelsen (USA) bt 32-Lehecka (Cze) 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; 19-Norrie (GBr) bt Zeppieri (Ita) 3-6, 6-7(4), 6-2, 6-4, 6-4; 11-Ruud (Nor) bt Purcell (AUS) 6-3, 6-7(5), 6-3, 3-6, 7-6(7); 14-Paul (USA) bt Draper (GBr) 6-2, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; Kecmanovic (Srb) bt 24-Struff (Ger) 6-4, 1-6, 7-6(5), 1-6, 7-6(9); Juncheng (Chn) bt Nagal (Ind) 2-6, 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; 2-Alcaraz (Esp) bt Sonego (Ita) 6-4, 6-7(3), 6-3, 7-6(3).

Doubles (First round): Bopanna (Ind) & Ebden (Aus) bt Duckworth & Polmans (Aus) 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-6(2); Fucsovics and Marozsan (Hun) bt Prashanth & Chandrasekar 6-3, 6-4.

Women: 1-Swiatek (Pol) bt Collins (USA) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; 19-Svitolina (Ukr) bt Tomova (Bul) 6-1, 6-3; 11-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Tomljanovic (Aus) 6-0, 3-6, 6-4; 18-Azarenka (Blr) bt Tauson (Den) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2; 27-Navarro (USA) bt Cocciaretto (Ita) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; Blinkova (Rus) bt 3-Rybakina (Kaz) 6-4, 4-6, 7-6(20); 26-Paolini (Ita) bt Maria (Ger) 6-2, 6-3; Stephens (USA) bt 14-Kasatkina (Rus) 4-6, 6-3, 6-3; 12-Zheng (Chn) bt Boulter (GBr) 6-3, 6-3; Wang (Chn) bt Raducanu (GBr) 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; Burel (Fra) bt 5-Pegula (USA) 6-4, 6-2.

Fallen seeds

Men: 8-Rune, 23-Davidovich Fokina, 32-Lehecka

Women: 3-Rybakina, 5-Pegula, 14-Kasatkina

INBRIEF

Patidar smashes century but England Lions remain on top

England Lions continued to dominate India-A despite a rollicking unbeaten hundred from Rajat Patidar (140, 132b, 18x4, 5x6) on the second day of the first 'Test' in Ahmedabad on Thursday. India-A was 215 for eight at close replying to England's 553 for eight declared. Pacer Matthew Fisher took four for 57 for the Lions.

The scores: England Lions 553/8 decl. in 118 overs (Keaton Jennings 154, Josh Bohanan 125, Alex Lees 73, Dan Mousley 68, Jack Carson 53, Manav Suthar 4/137) vs India-A 215/8 in 40 overs (Rajat Patidar 140, Matt Fisher 4/57).

Finn tells England to woo fans to win series in India

For England to replicate its 2012 victory in India, its IPL superstars need to gain admirers by delivering entertaining performances, feels former pacer-turned-commentator Steven Finn. India has won 16 home series since its 1-2 reversal against England 13 years back, a series which Finn was part of. "I think the IPL superstardom of some of the players will count to England's benefit," said Finn.

Sri Lanka bags series after record low Zimbabwe total

Wanindu Hasaranga's lower-order demolition eased Sri Lanka to a 2-1 series win against Zimbabwe in Colombo on Thursday after the visitors were bowled out for 82, their worst-ever T20 total. The home skipper's four for 15 helped Lanka cruise to a nine-wicket win in 10.5 overs.

The scores: Zimbabwe 82 in 14.1 overs (Wanindu Hasaranga 4/15) lost to Sri Lanka 88/1 in 10.5 overs (Pathum Nissanka 39 n.o., Kusal Mendis 33). **Toss:** Sri Lanka.

Dravid impressed by players stepping up to the plate

The India coach says it's nice to have options to choose from, feels that Player-of-the-Series Dube has put his hand up and made a statement about his ability ahead of the ICC T20 World Cup

Spirited bunch: India will feel confident about where it stands after finishing on a high against Afghanistan. K. MURALI KUMAR

AFGHANISTAN IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

A manic game of cricket, like the 424-run, double Super Over affair that unfolded at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium between India and Afghanistan, can be difficult to process.

But away from the on-field din and in the cozy comfort of the press-conference room, head coach Rahul Dravid reflected on the contest that helped India sweep the series 3-0 and on the period it helped culminate ahead of this summer's T20 World Cup.

"We have had different players play after the ODI World Cup and it's been good," Dravid said just after midnight on Wednesday. "It's nice to see that there are some options. Players have shown that they have got skills to address areas we were thinking about.

"Unfortunately, we don't have much cricket as a team, but we have the IPL coming up and all of us will closely be watching how some of these guys play."

The message Dravid seemingly wanted to convey was that the World Cup squad was far from being firmed up, though the think-tank had a "fair idea of the kind of balance" it wanted. A case in point was how he listed out as many as five wicket-keepers – Jitesh Sharma, Sanju Samson, K.L. Rahul, Ishan Kishan, and Rishabh Pant.

One man on whom the message rang loud and clear was all-rounder Shivam Dube, who hit belligerent back-to-back half-centuries in the first two T20Is and earned the Player-of-the-Series award.

"To come back after a long time and be the player of the series will give him a lot of confidence," Dravid said. "He has certainly put his hand up and made a statement: 'look, these are the skills I possess and I have got this ability.'

"He was good through the middle overs against spin and he bowled some good overs with the ball. He now has the opportunity to show these in the IPL."

Dravid also heaped praise on spinner Ravi Bishnoi, who defended 11 runs in the second Super Over by prising out both Afghan batters, and also lauded skipper Rohit Sharma's trust in the leggie. In fact, Bishnoi has played all eight of India's home T20Is in the last two months.

"Bishnoi was brilliant. He bowled two superb balls; he pulled the length back and if they had been even slightly fuller, they would have gone for sixes.

"And a really good gut call from Rohit for being aggressive and going for wickets. If they [Afghanistan] had batted for six balls, with the power they had, they would have scored 12."

India-Afghanistan T20I series in numbers

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	100s/50s
Dube	3	124	63*	158.97	0/2
Rohit	3	121	121*	168.05	1/0
Naib	2	112	57	193.10	0/2
Rinku	3	94	69*	164.91	0/1
Bowling	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Avg**	**Econ**
Axar	2	4	2/17	10.00	5.00
Fareed	1	3	3/20	6.66	5.00
Arshdeep	2	3	3/32	20.00	7.50
Washington	3	3	3/18	22.66	7.55

We keep testing the guidelines: Trott on 'retired not out' issue

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Rohit walks back to the dugout during Super Over 1. K. MURALI KUMAR

Spread over four hours and 30 minutes, the third and final T20I between India and Afghanistan at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday did not just witness intense cricketing action, but also provided space for minor skirmishes and confusion.

The first was when Afghanistan's Mohammed Nabi collected two extra runs in the first Super Over after the ball ricocheted off his leg from an underarm throw by India wicket-keeper Sanju Samson. Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli were annoyed that it was not in good spirit, with Rohit even confronting Nabi, but to no avail.

India head coach Dravid, though, played down the incident. "It's part of the game," he said in the post-match presser. "You can run for those. In the first T20 [Mohali], there was an incident where it hit the bat of one of our batters and we ran a run as well. So nothing in the rules stops you."

The second incident, however, is yet to see such a closure. Rohit, after having batted in the first Super Over and seemingly retiring himself out with two runs needed off one delivery, was allowed to wield the willow in the second tie-breaker. According to the ICC's playing conditions, "any batsman dismissed in any previous Super Over shall be ineligible to bat in any subsequent Super Over."

But there was speculation that Rohit had actually "retired not out" and was thus eligible to play again. According to the ICC regulations, "if a batsman retires because of illness, injury or any other unavoidable cause, that batsman is entitled to resume his innings. If for any reason this does not happen, that batsman is to be recorded as 'retired - not out'."

Rohit, however, seemed in no visible discomfort, and if he had any other reason to walk off, he could have been allowed back in only with the consent of the rival captain. What also perplexed watchers was the fact that India's first Super Over score read 16 for one. If Rohit had indeed "retired not out", it should have been 16 for no loss. After the match, Dravid even termed it "Ash-level thinking," a reference to R. Ashwin retiring himself out in IPL 2022.

It is pertinent to note that Afghanistan wanted medium pacer Azmatullah Omarzai, who had bowled the first Super Over, to bowl the second too, but had to choose someone different, in line with ICC rules.

"I have no idea," said Jonathan Trott, Afghanistan head coach, when asked about the Rohit episode. "Has there ever been two Super Overs? It's sort of new. We keep setting these new rules and we keep testing the guidelines."

'My rating has been a stationary target as I am playing much less'

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Anand. PTI

R. Praggnanandhaa defeated reigning world champion Ding Liren to overtake Viswanathan Anand as India's top-ranked chess player in FIDE's live ratings earlier this week.

Praggnanandhaa follows D. Gukesh, who in September last year, ended Anand's 37-year reign as the nation's highest-ranked player.

Anand, a five-time world champion, believes that given India's huge talent pool, it is time to redefine the gold standard.

"My rating has been a stationary target. It is not moving because I'm playing much less. So one by one, all players will do it. Vidit (Gujrathi) is only seven behind me. One good day and he will come within five points," said Anand, a guest of honour at the first Bangalore International Grandmasters chess tournament on Thursday.

"Becoming India's highest-ranked player was noticed when Gukesh did it as it was the first time in 37 years that somebody was ranked higher than me. That was a significant milestone. But now that two players have done it, we should redefine the bar as my all-time career high ELO rating of 2817. Everyone should go for that," Anand said.

Anand's career-high rating will put a player second in the world, between leader Magnus Carlsen (2830) and Fabiano Caruana (2804).

"My career-high rating is some distance away, but these young players are certainly very strong. It is something to aim for – a nice long-term goal," Anand said.

About his ascent to the top of the India charts back in 1986, Anand said, "I was happy to get slightly ahead of my peers – (Dibyendu) Barua, (D.V.) Prasad and (Pravin) Thipsay. We were all trying to get the GM norm. My rating achievement was a precursor to me getting the GM title first. But we cannot compare those days to the present one.

"We have six players in the top-100 now, while I was alone. We also had R. Vaishali join (Koneru) Humpy and D. Harika as a Grandmaster. That's a big breakthrough. We have a strong group of players now, and most are ridiculously young. The future is bright," he said.

Humpy, Vaishali will strive to keep the Indian flag high

Strong field: The line-up for Women's Candidates. FIDE

CANDIDATES

P.K. Ajith Kumar

There is much to look forward to for India in the Candidates tournament (open), to be held at Toronto in April. Out of the eight contestants – who will battle it out to earn the right to challenge the reigning World chess champion Ding Liren – three are Indians.

But it is not just R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi and D. Gukesh who will be making moves under the Indian flag in Canada. Koneru Humpy and R. Vaishali will compete in the Women's Candidates tournament.

First time

It is for the first time that both the qualifying events in the open and women's sections are being held simultaneously. Vaishali qualified for the tournament by winning the Women's Grand Swiss, while Humpy, a former World rapid champion, made it because of her rating.

Humpy is of course an experienced campaigner, having competed for the World championship before, but this is going to be the most important tournament yet in the career of Vaishali, the elder sister of Praggnanandhaa.

Russians Kateryna Lagno and Aleksandra Goryachkina (the winner and the runner-up of the Women's Grand Prix), China's Lei Tingjie (the runner-up at the last World championship) and Tan Zhongyi (third place at Women's Grand Swiss), Nurgyul Salimova of Bulgaria (the runner-at the World Cup), and Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine (third place at the Women's World Cup) complete the line-up.

The winner will take on the reigning World champion Ju Wenjun of China.

The Candidates is a double-round event, with a combined prize fund of €750,000.

Day-long enriching sessions in store

GOA CONCLAVE

Sports Bureau
PANJIM

Sportstar's Conclave caravan makes its first stop for 2024 in Goa, where a host of speakers will discuss key issues about the sports ecosystem in the region.

The day-long event will have sessions across sports, including a discussion on cricket's future with Shikha Pandey, former Goa captains Swapnil Asnodkar and Shadab Jakati, and Vipul Phadke, President, Goa Cricket Association.

"Rediscovering Goa's Football Magic" will be another topic which will feature Caetano Fernandes, President, Goa Football Association, CEO of Dempo SC Pradhyum Reddy, Manolo Marquez, FC Goa coach, and former India football captain Brahmanand Sankhwalkar.

It will be followed by the "Sports for Community and Social Development" involving Shrinivas Dempo, Chairman, Dempo Group, and Dr. Sagar D. Salgaocar, Managing Director, Geno.

Shri Govind Gaude, Honourable Sports Minister of Goa, will deliver a keynote address on how sports embodies a way of life in Goa while Rohan Khaunte, Honourable Tourism Minister of Goa, will talk about "Goa: The Sports Tourism Destination Waiting to Be Discovered".

Olympic hockey gold medallist Merwyn Fernandes, Swetika Sachan, Sports Secretary of Goa and CEO of the National Games, international windsurfer Dayne Coelho and international badminton player Anura Prabhudesai will discuss how "Building on the legacy of the National Games and National Para Games" can help Indian sports.

The event will conclude with a session titled "At Home in Goa," featuring former India fast bowler Ashish Nehra and eminent cricket journalist Vijay Lokapally.

The Conclave is being held in association with Hero We Care, a Hero Motocorp CSR Initiative, Goa Tourism, Indian Oil, Geno Sports Club, KSG India, State Bank of India, KPMG, Great SportsTech, Casagrand and NewsX. It can be watched live on Sportstar's YouTube channel.

Under-19 stars take the centrestage

CRICKET

Press Trust of India
BLOEMFONTEIN

Many dreams will take flight and futures will be shaped when the Under-19 World Cup begins here on Friday with rival teams looking to halt dominance of record five time champion India.

The legacy of the Under-19 World Cup as a breeding ground for future cricketing stars is well established.

India favourite

All eyes again would be on India, which will be led by Punjab's Uday Saharan. The side begins its campaign against neighbour Bangladesh in Group A on Saturday.

The group also features the USA and Ireland which will set the ball rolling in the opening match of the tournament that will run till February 11 with the summit clash in Benoni.

Sixteen teams are divided into four groups with top three making the Super Sixes where 12 teams will be divided into two pools.

The top-two will then make the semifinals, also slated in Benoni on February 6 and 8.

Part of India's squad is Arshin Kulkarni, who one of only two players in the team to be signed at the IPL auction.

The Groups:
A: Bangladesh, India, Ireland, USA; **B:** England, Scotland, South Africa, West Indies; **C:** Australia, Namibia, Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe; **D:** Afghanistan, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan.

Karnataka looks to get back on track against Goa after shock Gujarat loss

Venkatesh may play his first First Class match in his hometown; it will be interesting to see how Siddharth shapes up against his former side

RANJI TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
MYSURU

Barely four days after crumbling to bits against Gujarat, Karnataka will look to pick up the pieces and get back on its feet when it plays Goa in a Ranji Trophy Group-C encounter at the SDNR Wadiyar Stadium starting Friday.

Imploding
Chasing a paltry 110 for victory, and at one stage comfortably placed at 50 for no loss, Karnataka imploded spectacularly to be bowled out for 103.

Having already beaten Punjab, it should have been a second straight outright win over a fellow quarterfinal contender.

Instead, the loss will have triggered a period of intense soul-searching.

The host will have to do this without the injured speedster Prasidh Krishna, who could only bowl 14.5 first-innings overs to the Gujarat batters on his return from South Africa.

With fellow pacer Vidwath Kaverappa away on India-A duty, M. Venkatesh may play his first First Class tie in his hometown and only the second of his career.

Finding his rhythm
If there was a big positive from the Gujarat contest, it was captain Mayank Agarwal's century (109) in the first essay that came after back-to-back ducks versus Punjab.

But his deputy Nikin Jose desperately needs runs, having totalled just 34 from four innings this campaign.

It remains to be seen if opener R. Samarth, who suffered a bout of viral fever in Ahmedabad, is match-fit.

Goa, which lost its opening fixture by 237 runs to Tripura, comes into the contest after opening its account in this edition by virtue of securing the first-innings lead over Chandigarh.

The likes of Suyash Prabhudessai, K.V. Siddharth and Deepraj Gaonkar have been among the runs.

Siddharth, 31, will especially be keen to perform, for he is from Karnataka and was its top-scorer in the 2021-22 season only to not get a game in 2022-23 and leave for greener pastures ahead of 2023-24.

Silver lining: Mayank's knock was the highpoint for Karnataka in its match against Gujarat. VIJAY SONEJI

RANJI TROPHY ROUND THREE SCHEDULE

Group-A: Vidarbha vs Saurashtra (Nagpur); Services vs Jharkhand (Delhi); Rajasthan vs Maharashtra (Jodhpur); Manipur vs Haryana (Ahmedabad).
Group-B: Bengal vs Chhattisgarh (Kolkata); Assam vs Andhra (Dibrugarh); Kerala vs Mumbai (Thiruvananthapuram); Uttar Pradesh vs Bihar (Meerut).
Group-C: Karnataka vs Goa (Mysuru); Punjab vs Tripura (Mohali); Tamil Nadu vs Railways (Coimbatore); Chandigarh vs Gujarat (Chandigarh).
Group-D: Madhya Pradesh vs Delhi (Indore); Uttarakhand vs Pondicherry (Dehradun); Himachal Pradesh vs Baroda (Dharamshala); Odisha vs Jammu & Kashmir (Cuttack).
Plate: Meghalaya vs Nagaland (Shillong); Hyderabad vs Sikkim (Hyderabad); Arunachal Pradesh vs Mizoram (Anand).
All matches begin at 9. 30 a.m.

INBRIEF

Mercedes F1 technical head Allison signs long-term deal

Mercedes Formula One technical director James Allison has followed principal and co-owner Toto Wolff in committing to the team for years to come, the former champions announced on Thursday. Mercedes said the Briton, 55, had signed a long-term extension. Allison joined Mercedes in 2017 and was involved in five of the team's eight successive constructors' championships from 2014 to 2021.

Mexico drops out of race to host 2036 Olympic Games

Mexico has abandoned its bid to host the 2036 Olympics, more than half a century after first staging the Summer Games, a senior official said. "We had a talk with the International Olympic Committee and we saw that the competition is very tough," Mexican Olympic Committee head Maria Jose Alcala told reporters on Tuesday. Mexico was considering a bid to host the Youth Olympic Games instead, she said.

Madrid to be added to F-1 calendar, say sources

Madrid will be added to the Formula One calendar, multiple sources told *The Associated Press* on Wednesday. The official announcement will be made here next week, according to the sources familiar with the deal. The sources spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to discuss the matter publicly. Details on when the Madrid race will be added to the calendar were still being worked out, though reports mentioned a multi-year deal starting in 2026. Barcelona is under contract to host F-1 races at the Circuit de Barcelona-Catalunya until 2026. Spanish media said negotiations have been underway with Catalonia officials to see whether an agreement could be reached for Madrid to take over Barcelona's spot on the calendar before the end of the current contract.

Napoli signs Traore on loan from Bournemouth

Napoli has signed Ivory Coast midfielder Hamed Traore on loan from Bournemouth, the struggling Serie A champion announced on Wednesday. In a statement, Napoli said it has brought in Traore until the end of the season with an option to buy. Italian media report that Napoli, eighth in Serie A, will have to pay €25 million to make the move permanent.

Head and Hazlewood put Australia in command

WI IN AUSTRALIA

Agence France-Presse
ADELAIDE

An inspired spell of bowling from Josh Hazlewood and a brilliant attacking century from Travis Head put Australia in complete control of the first Test against the West Indies in on Thursday.

Superb spell
After Head smashed 119 from 134 balls to take Australia to 283 and a first-innings lead of 95, Hazlewood took four wickets for just two runs at the start of the West Indies second innings to deal a hammer blow to the visitors.

At stumps on the second day, the West Indies was 73 for six, still 22 runs from making Australia bat again.

Joshua Da Silva was not out 17, with Justin Greaves dismissed off the last ball

Untroubled: Head smashed 119 from 134 balls to take Australia to 283 and a first-innings lead of 95. AFP

The score:

West Indies 188 & 73/6 in 22.5 overs (McKenzie 26, Hazlewood 4/18) vs Australia 283 in 81.1 overs (Khawaja 45, Head 119, Joseph 5/94).

Inyouwebelieve & Peyo may fight out the finish in Narasimharaja Trophy

RACING

BENGALURU: Inyouwebelieve and Peyo may fight out the finish of the Narasimharaja Trophy (1,600m), the main event of the races to be held here on Friday (Jan. 19).

False rails (width about 7.25m from 1,600m to the winning post) will be in position.

1 TED FORDYCE PLATE (1,100m), maiden 3-y-o only, (Terms), 2.00 p.m.: 1. Ahead Of The Curve (1) Suraj 56, 2. Jersey King (2) Srinath 56, 3. La Mcqueen (6) Antony 56, 4. Noble Pursuit (3) Tousif 56, 5. Ranquelino (8) F. Norton 56, 6. Stentorian (9) Shinde 56, 7. Days Date (5) Rozario 54.5, 8. Mehra (4) R. Pradeep 54.5, 9. Nyx (7) P. Trevor 54.5 and 10. Sherouk (10) Saqlain 54.5.
1. LA MCQUEEN,
2. AHEAD OF THE CURVE,
3. JERSEY KING

2 ARKAVATI PLATE (Div. II), (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 2.30.: 1. Peluche (7) Darshan 60, 2. Singhsaab (1) G. Vivek 55.5, 3. My Vision (5) Jagadeesh 53.5, 4. Chinky Pinky (3) R. Pradeep 53, 5. Ring Master (8) Antony 53, 6. Thewhisperquietly (4) P. Surya 53, 7. Sling Shot (6) Saddam H 52.5 and 8. Konichiwa (6) Shinde 50.
1. PELUCHE, 2. THEWHISPERQUIETLY, 3. MY VISION

3 ARKAVATHI PLATE (Div I), (1,600m), rated 20 to 45, 5-y-o & over, 3.00.: 1. Turkoman (8) S. Shareef 62.5, 2. Castaneda (2) Antony 60, 3. Je Ne Sais Quoi (3) G. Vivek 60, 4. Ardakan (5) Srinath 58, 5. Ombudsman (7) Vivek 58, 6. Sekhmet (1) Inayat 56.5, 7. Russian Romance (4) Abdul Fazal 55.5 and 8. Antilope (6) P.S. Kaviraj 53.
1. ARDAKAN,
2. RUSSIAN ROMANCE,
3. CASTANEDA

4 DANCING FOUNTAIN STAKES (1,200m), rated 40 to 65, 5-y-o & over, 3.30.: 1. 1. Spectacular (9) Inayat 61, 2. Balor (10) Mark 60, 3. Anakin (12) Vivek 59.5, 4. Solo Prince (4) Srinath 59.5, 5. Tripitaka (1) Suraj 59, 6. Classic Charm (3) I. Chisty 56.5, 7. Millbrook (7) Antony 56.5, 8. Ultimate Striker (5) Darshan 56, 9. Mystic Eye (8) Jagadeesh 55.5, 10. Lauterbrunnen (2) Angad 54, 11. Augusto (6) S. Shareef 51.5 and 12. Silver Token (11) Rozario 51.
1. TRIPITAKA, 2. SOLO PRINCE,
3. LAUTERBRUNNEN

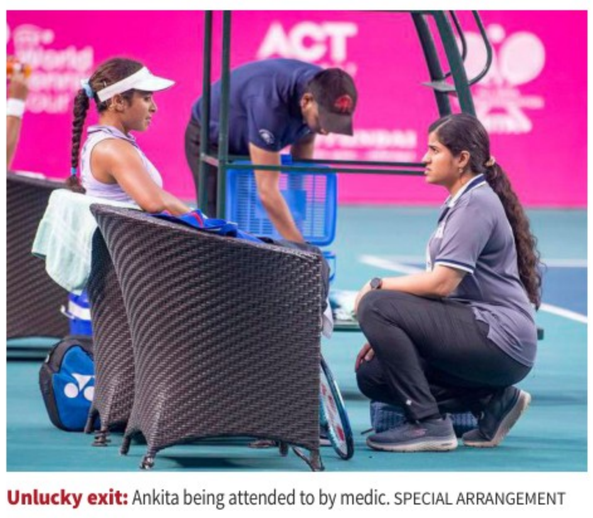
5 K.N. CHENNABASAPPA MEMORIAL TROPHY (1,400m), rated 40 to 65, 4.00.: 1. Stellantis (2) P. Trevor 60, 2. In Thy Light (4) G. Vivek 59, 3. Impiana (3) Jagadeesh 57.5, 4. Marzgovel (1) F. Norton 57.5, 5. Ricardo (6) Antony 57.5, 6. River Of Gold (9) I. Chisty 56, 7. Mazal Tov (8) Srinath 54.5, 8. Maroon (5) S. Shareef 52 and 9. Serai (7) Ram Nandan 51.
1. IN THY LIGHT, 2. STELLANTIS,
3. IMPIANA

6 NARASIMHARAJA TROPHY (1,600m), rated 60 to 85, 4.30.: 1. Peyo (5) Suraj 60, 2. Inyouwebelieve (4) P. Trevor 55.5, 3. Auspicious Queen (3) Angad 54.5, 4. Top Dancer (6) G. Vivek 54, 5. Fearless Joey (1) Salman K 53.5, 6. King Of War (9) Saddam H 53.5, 7. Elpenor (2) F. Norton 53, 8. Shabelle (7) Saqlain 52 and 9. Pink Jasmine (8) Shreyas 51.
1. INYOUWEBELIEVE, 2. PEYO,
3. ELPENOR

7 CHUNCHANAKATTE FALLS PLATE (1,200m), rated 20 to 45, 4-y-o & over, 5.00: 1. Crosswater (5) S. John 61.5, 2. Rainbow Dreamer (8) G. Vivek 61, 3. Bold Act (2) Siddaraju 59, 4. Blackstone (11) Rayan Ahmed 56, 5. Asagiri (3) Ashok Kumar 55.5, 6. My Wish (-) (-) 55. 7. Sir Tristan (9) Antony 55, 8. Super Sapphire (6) Salman K 54.5, 9. Chililady (4) Srinath 54, 10. Greeley (1) Rozario 53.5, 11. Tropical Mist (7) P.S. Kaviraj 53.5 and 12. Tigerking (10) Tousif 51.5.
1. BLACKSTONE, 2. CROSSWATER,
3. GREELEY
Day's best: IN THY LIGHT
Double:
PELUCHE-INYOUWEBELIEVE
Jackpot: 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7; Treble (i): 2, 3 & 4; (ii): 5, 6 & 7.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Rutuja advances
Asian Games gold medallist Rutuja Bhosale emerged as the lone Indian to enter the singles quarterfinals of the KPB Trust ITF Women's Open tennis tournament at the KSLTA Stadium on Thursday.
The 27-year-old did not have to break much sweat as her opponent Ankita Raina, seeded eighth, threw in the towel when trailing 1-2 in the first set after being indisposed.
The other Indian in fray – Vaidehi Chaudhary – went down to sixth seed Carole Monnet of France 7-6 (5), 4-6, 4-6.
The Indian challenge in the doubles too fizzled out as Sharmada Balu-Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi and Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty-Vaidehi Chaudhari lost their quarterfinal matches.



Unlucky exit: Ankita being attended to by medic. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results:

Singles: Round of 16: Moyuka Uchijima (Jpn) bt Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) 6-3, 6-3; Tatiana Prozorova bt Mei Yamaguchi (Jpn) 6-0, 6-2; Rutuja Bhosale bt Ankita Raina 2-1 (retd); Darja Semenistaja (Lat) bt Lena Papadakis (Ger) 7-6 (5), 3-6, 6-4; Chloe Paquet (Fra) bt Sakura Hosogi (Jpn) 6-4, 6-0; Naho Sato (Jpn) bt Jana Kolodynska (Bys) 7-5, 6-2; Polina Kudermetova (Rus) bt Tina Nadine Smith (Aus) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4; Carole Monnet (Fra) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari (Ind) 6-7 (5), 6-4, 6-4.
Doubles: Quarterfinals: Saki Imamura/Naho Sato (Jpn) bt Sharmada Balu/Sravya Shivani Chilakalapudi (Ind) 6-0, 6-1; Yu-Yun Li (Tpe)/Eri Shimizu (Jpn) bt Shrivalli Rashmikaa Bhamidipaty/Vaidehi Chaudhari (Ind) 6-1, 6-4; Amandine Hesse (Fra)/Dalila Jakupovic (Slo) bt Prarthana Thombare (Ind)/Anastasia Tikhonova (Rus) 6-2, 2-6, 10-7.

BCFC edges out DYES
BCFC edged out DYES FC 3-2 in the BDFA A-division league championship on Thursday.
The results:
A-div.: BCFC 3 (P. Abhishek 6, N. Thangkipgen 21, 79) bt DYES 2 (S.A. Chandan 18, T.M. Madhan 33); Jawahar Union 3 (Tengo Stephen 7, Alan Sanjay Xavier 10, Adrian Peter 80+1) bt AGORC 1 (Sandeep Krishnan 21).
B-div.: South India 1 (Lalhlimpuia 66) bt Tilak Memorial 0.

Global Indian IS posts win
Global Indian International School, Whitefield defeated DPS, East 4-1 in an under-14 boys' match on day three of the SFA Championships on Thursday.
In under-14 tennis, Karthikeya Nalam Oakridge International School, Dommasandra blanked Shaurya Achar Greenwood High, Bannerghatta 4-0.

Indian Open indoor archery tournament from today

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

Around 220 archers, including several top names, will be seen in action in the Indian Open indoor archery tournament to be held at the Biswa Bangla Exhibition Centre here from Friday.

The three-day championships, being organised for the second time after six years by the Dola and Rahul Banerjee Sports Foundation, will have competitions in the under-18 and elite categories in recurve and compound divisions.

Consistency
"Young archers get to interact with big names as the number of entries is so huge. Indoor shooting requires consistency as weather conditions are not a factor here.

"With smaller targets, shooting has to be perfect and a little error can prove costly," said ace archer Deepika Kumari at a press conference here on Thursday.

The organisers are planning to turn the event into a circuit with three legs.

Rithvik and Niki make it to the Challenger semifinals

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

India's Rithvik Bollipalli and Niki Poonacha defeated Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi of Pakistan and Christopher Rungkat of Indonesia 6-3, 6-7(4), [10-5] in the doubles quarterfinals of the $82,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Nonthaburi, Thailand, on Thursday.

The Indians had knocked out second seeds Manuel Guinard and Gregoire Jacq of France in straight sets.

Dhamne advances
In the $15,000 ITF men's tournament at Manacor (Spain), Manas Dhamne defeated Stefan Hampe of Germany 6-4, 6-0 in the first round.

The results:

€120,950 Challenger, Abama, Spain: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Karol Drzewiecki & Piotr Matuszewski (Pol) bt Sathi Chirala & Fabio Fognini (Ita) 7-5, 6-3; Arjun Kadhe & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt David Marrero (Esp) & Dhruva Mulye (USA) 6-2, 6-1.

$82,000 Challenger, Nonthaburi: Doubles, quarterfinals: Rithvik Bollipalli & Niki Poonacha bt Aisam-Ul-Haq Qureshi (Pak) & Christopher Rungkat (Ina) 6-3, 6-7(4), [10-5]; **Pre-quarterfinals:** Ray Ho (Tpe) & Kaichi Uchida (Jpn) bt Saketh Myneni & Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-7(5), 7-5, [10-7]; Rithvik & Niki bt Manuel Guinard & Gregoire Jacq (Fra) 6-3, 6-4.

$40,000 ITF women, Antalya: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Cristina Dinu (Rou) & Nika Radisic (Slo) bt Sebastianna Scilipoti (Sui) & Vasanti Shinde 6-2, 6-2.

$25,000 ITF women, Petit-Bourg, France: Doubles, pre-quarterfinals: Jaeda Daniel (USA) & Katarina Kozarov (Srb) bt Brianna Baldi (USA) & Priyanka Rodricks 6-0, 6-3.

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir: Pre-quarterfinals: Miljan Zekic (Srb) bt Chirag Duhan 7-6(5), 7-6(7); **First round:** Chirag bt Alexander Donski (Bul) 3-6, 7-6(3), 6-4.

$15,000 ITF men, Manacor, Spain: First round: Manas Dhamne bt Stefan Hampe (Ger) 6-4, 6-0.

LIVE TELECAST

Badminton: India Open, Jio Cinema App, 9 a.m. onwards.
Cricket: Under-19 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.
Vijay Merchant Trophy: Final, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 9.20 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Jio Cinema App, 9.30 a.m. onwards.
New Zealand vs Pakistan: 4th T20I, Prime Video, 11.40 a.m.
Australian Open: Afternoon session, Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 1.30 p.m.
PKL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. onwards.
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday).
Australia vs West Indies: 1st Test, day 4, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 5 a.m. onwards.
Australian Open: Sony Sports Ten 2, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 5.30 a.m. onwards (Saturday).

A BG-BGE

POONAWALLA FINCORP LIMITED

Q3FY24 Standalone Key Financial Highlights

Highest Ever Business

Disbursement	AUM
₹8,731 Cr. +159% YoY ↑	₹21,946 Cr. +58% YoY ↑

Highest Ever Profitability

PAT	RoA
₹265 Cr. +76% YoY ↑	5.3% +84 bps YoY ↑

Healthy NIM & Credit Rating

NIM	Credit Rating
11.02% +33 bps YoY ↑	AAA by CRISIL & CARE

Improved Asset Quality

GNPA	NNPA
1.33% -36 bps YoY ↓	0.70% -19 bps YoY ↓

Exceptional growth yet again!

"We continued to showcase exemplary growth in Q3FY24 with highest ever quarterly disbursement & profit and strong AUM growth while maintaining a superior asset quality. Our recently launched mobile app has gained significant traction thereby helping us build a robust distribution ecosystem. With successful completion of our technology transformation, we are now a step ahead to offer a delightful customer experience with innovative and personalized journeys."

Abhay Bhutada
Managing Director

Pure Retail Play | Scalable Business Model | Digital-First Tech-Led | Customer Centric

Customized solutions for every financial need

Personal Loan | Pre-Owned Car Loan | Professional Loan | Business Loan | Medical Equipment Loan | Machinery Loan | Loan Against Property | Consumer Loan | Supply Chain Finance

Online Process | Minimum Documentation | Quick Approval | Zero Pre-payment Charges | No Hidden Charges

Scan to download our Mobile App

*T&C Apply

1800-266-3201 (Toll Free) 88062 22222 www.poonawallafincorp.com

Follow us on:

Registered and Corporate office: 201, 202, AP 81, Koregaon Park Annexe, Pune, Maharashtra - 411036.

"Celebrate parenthood of a different kind"

Mark your moment

WITH

TANISHQ

Festival of Diamonds

UP TO 20% OFF* On diamond jewellery value

PAY WITH OLD GOLD 100%* exchange value on old gold from any jeweller

To locate your nearest store and know more on 6366920017 Buy online at tanishq.co.in or Download our App * Conditions apply. Visit our website for the T&C

Showrooms at Bangalore: Dickenson Road, Koramangala, Kamanahalli, E-City, Marathahalli, HSR Layout, Phoenix Mall, Nexus Shantiniketan Mall, Bannerghata, Jaynagar, Banashankari, Vijayanagar, Kanakapura Road, Basaveshwaranagar, New BEL Road. New Stores at Whitefield - Tel: 080-22633335, KR Puram - Subhash Nagar, Batarahalli. Tel: 9611730802, RR Nagar - BEML Layout. Tel: 080-47574666. Relocated to new premises at Malleswaram - Sampige Road. Tel: 9164326100 & Yelahanka - Opp. to The Galleria Mall. Tel: 080 43364336; Mysore: No.2927, Bangalore - Nilgiri Road, Near Suburban Bus Stand. Tel: 821 428 0074; Tumkur: ADR Complex. Tel: 816 4041666; Relocated to No.3 (Old No.18), 9th Main, Diagonally Opposite to Pai Viceroy's Hotel, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. Tel: 9886333665

A BG-BGE